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As an Official Journal THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is regularly supplied to every member of

EIGHT PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETIES
 in the British Empire.

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INSETS.

OUR Winter Issue will be published on the last Saturday of this month, and we can receive for stitching therein circulars, price-lists, or facsimiles of showcards or counter-bills supplied to us by advertisers for this purpose. There are many advantages in this method of advertising, *e.g.*—

1. Distinction and prominence are secured by printing on a coloured paper, by artistic illustration, and the like.
2. Stitched as they are in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST (and that a number specially attractive and interesting), the advertiser may be sure that his circular will not be thrown into the waste-paper basket when received.
3. Every copy of our Winter Issue goes to a live man of business, either at home or abroad.
4. We have so many repeat orders for insets, that we cannot take them to mean anything else than that the advertisers have had satisfactory results.

These reasons justify us in asking all firms connected with the drug-trade who have catalogues, circulars, price-lists, &c., to distribute this month to make the Winter Issue of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST the medium. They will get full particulars from the Publisher on application, which should be made without delay.

Summary.

A PRESTON chemist has been censured by a coroner for selling laudanum in a glass to a small boy (p. 34).

THE chemists' ball season seems to have set in with vigour. Three are announced for next week (p. 35).

AT the Pharmaceutical Council-meeting this week it was agreed to alter the evening-meeting day to Tuesday (p. 39).

THE nourishing properties of some infants' foods were commented upon depreciatively at an inquest reported on p. 35.

THE Irish Pharmaceutical Council propose to give medals to the best candidates at their licence examinations (p. 41).

AT Rathfriland a dealer has been fined under the Irish Pharmacy Act, on two counts, for selling Leeming's essence—a preparation of cantharides (p. 44).

THE Local Government Board have refused to sanction the appointment of a schoolmaster as a borough analyst, because he has not sufficient knowledge of therapeutics (p. 34).

DR. DUFFEY'S report to the Irish Privy Council on the examinations held by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland appears in the report of the Council-meeting of that body (p. 40).

A WURZBURG Professor has discovered a "new light" which penetrates wood and flesh, and makes photography without a camera possible. It is the phosphorescence of Crookes's vacuum tubes (p. 51).

IT is proposed in India to sterilise drugs and other vegetable products by heat before exporting them, so as to prevent the growth of weevils. Preliminary trials show the method to be successful (p. 47).

OUR French correspondent gives a full account of the system of mutual assurance which exists in France for the protection of pharmacists from the pecuniary consequences of accidents which may occur in their businesses (p. 48).

MR WATSON SMITH has experimented with ammonium-chloride and sulphate with the view of finding a process for making chlorine or hydrochloric acid, and although unsuccessful some most interesting results were obtained (p. 43).

A GROCER has been fined 10/- and costs at Rhyl County Court, in consequence of two sales of Winslow's soothing syrup. He pleaded hard for a reduction of the penalty, but the Judge, who was acquainted with the Act, said he had no power in the matter (p. 44).

FOLLOWING upon a note in our last issue regarding suppositories, we have obtained expressions of opinion from Messrs. Peter Boa, A. W. Gerrard, W. Martindale, T. W. Robinson, Charles Symes, Walter Hills, and others, to the effect that the official instructions should be amended (p. 64).

AN action affecting notice of dismissal in the surgical-instrument trade was heard before Mr. Commissioner Kerr, Messrs. Allen & Hanburys being the defendant. They had issued a notice that the rules in force would be those which governed the Sheffield trade, and on these they were held to be in the wrong (p. 45).

THE President of the Pharmaceutical Society called attention at the Council-meeting this week to the necessity of enforcing the law in cases of branch-shops managed by unqualified assistants. The object of giving a general warning in that manner was that illegality might be remedied before, rather than after, legal proceedings (p. 39).

THE Pharmaceutical side of the Transvaal difficulty is dealt with in two interviews (printed on pp. 52-5) with Mr. Trembach, a Johannesburg pharmacist, and Mr. Fairclough, the London representative of B. G. Leunon & Co., who tell what the practice of medicine and pharmacy is there. The article is illustrated with engravings, including a pharmacy-interior and a sketch-portrait of Dr. Jameson.



The Editor is obliged to correspondents who send local newspapers containing items of interest to the trade. He will be further obliged if such paragraphs be marked in all cases.

British Medical Association—Annual Meeting.

It has now been decided that the annual meeting of the British Medical Association will be held at Carlisle from July 28 to 31. Dr. Henry Barnes, of Carlisle, has been nominated for the presidency.

The Penzance Analyst.

Penzance has been without a borough analyst for upwards of twelve months. The Town Council recently appointed Mr. C. Robinson, head-master of the Science Schools, but the Local Government Board refused to sanction the appointment on the ground that Mr. Robinson had not a sufficient knowledge of therapeutics. At the January meeting of the Council the Sanitary Committee recommended that the Town Clerk communicate with the Board, pointing out that the Council desire to appoint an officer resident in the borough, and asking whether the Board would allow Mr. Robinson time to work up therapeutics as applied to the duties of public analyst. An amendment was, however, carried expunging this recommendation from the report.

A Dispenser Steals a Patient's Watch.

At Portsmouth Quarter Sessions, on Friday, George Walker (29), chemist, was indicted for stealing a silver watch, chain, coin, and charm, valued at 4*l.*, the property of Charles Kill, naval pensioner. Prisoner was dispenser to a Portsmouth surgeon, and on August 12 last, while prosecutor was at the surgery, he was seized with a fit. Prisoner attended to him, and when prosecutor recovered he missed his watch and appendages. Prisoner sold the watch for 15*s.* He was apprehended at East Dulwich. The Jury convicted the prisoner, and the Recorder (Mr. Warry, Q.C.) expressed regret at having to pass sentence upon a man of good education. He had, however, behaved very badly. He had been in gaol nearly a month, and he sentenced him to two months' imprisonment with hard labour.

An Analyst amongst the Drugs.

Mr. A. H. Allen, public analyst, in his report to the West Riding County Council, says, for the quarter ending September 30 last, he received and analysed 551 samples. From a table appended it appears that one sample of glycerine was genuine and free from arsenic, a sample of olive oil was of a suspicious character, four samples of tincture of rhubarb were genuine, three were inferior or of suspicious character, one contained only two-thirds of B.P. proportion of alcohol, another contained only three-fourths of B.P. proportion of alcohol and extractive matter, and two samples contained only two-thirds and four-fifths respectively of B.P. proportion of alcohol. These samples were destitute, or nearly destitute, of saffron. A sample of tincture of myrrh was of doubtful purity, and a compound liquorice-powder was deficient in sulphur, containing 4 and 5.5 per cent respectively. Two samples of beeswax were genuine, another was of very suspicious character, and two contained only 25 and 75 per cent. of beeswax respectively. A sample of sweet spirits of nitre was found to be of very inferior quality. Some bismuth lozenges contained only three-fifths of the proper proportion of bismuth. A seidlitz powder was deficient in weight.

Burglary at a Sheffield Chemist's Shop.

On the first day of this year Mr. Sam. Peter Lowe, chemist and druggist, of 42 London Road and 1 Lansdowne Road, Sheffield, left his premises, consisting of a shop and house attached, early in the evening, on a visit to a friend. He locked the shop up, leaving no one in charge. The shop-

windows face the Moor, and are at the corners of Lansdowne Road and London Road, the house being in the rear of the building. About 8 P.M. the rumour spread that the premises had been tampered with. An excited crowd quickly collected about the shop, and a policeman went to find Mr. Lowe. An attempt was made to force the doors, but they were found to be securely fastened. Mr. Allen, of the Lansdowne Hotel, suggested that a window should be broken. Leaving two policemen on guard at the doors, Mr. Allen and Sergeant Platte entered the house by the back window. Within they found everything in disorder. Furniture was upturned, and articles strewn on every hand. In the bedrooms clothing of every description was lying about, and there were signs that the drawers had been forced. Mr. Lowe returned about 11 o'clock, and was naturally much disturbed upon being acquainted with what had transpired. His own theory is that the unwelcome visitor, whoever he may be, had effected an entrance by means of the front door and by the use of a skeleton key. A lady's gold watch was broken in pieces, and the following articles were stolen:—A bearskin boa, a pair of old-fashioned eyeglasses, a "garter" sovereign of George III.'s reign, two gold pencil-cases, a pair of lady's cuff-links, a gold split-ring, a charm with a gold key, and two silver bracelets. No arrest has been made.

The Medway Union Drug contracts.

The drug-contract question was again discussed at the last meeting of the Medway (Gravesend) Board of Guardians. A small committee had been appointed to consider the tenders, and they recommended that that of Messrs. Ostler & Co., chemists and druggists, Rochester, should be accepted for the ensuing six months. In reply to the Chairman, Mr. Viney said the tender was not quite the lowest. The lowest came from a firm at Leicester, but it was thought as well to let a local tradesman supply the goods. The Chairman thought it would be the wisest course to accept the lowest tender. He did not believe in going away from the old system in order to keep the contract local. It seemed inconsistent to go to a local man, if by so doing they increased the ratepayers' burdens. Other guardians, however, thought the Board ought to accept the recommendation of the committee, as they had taken much trouble in the matter. This view ultimately prevailed.

Drug contracts.

The Cranbrook (Kent) Board of Guardians have accepted the tender of Mr. Hudson, chemist and druggist, Cranbrook, for the supply of cod-liver oil and disinfectants for the ensuing year.

The Belper Board of Guardians have accepted the tender of Messrs. Calvert & Son, of Belper, for the supply of chemists' goods and materials for the ensuing quarter.

Funeral of a Chemist.

Alderman William Thompson, chemist and druggist, Sunderland, whose death we announced last week, was buried on January 3. The funeral was of a public character, being attended by the Mayor, members of the Corporation, and other prominent men of the town, as well as by the members of the Sunderland Chemists' Association, of which the deceased was President at the time of his death.

Selling Laudanum in a Glass to a Boy.

On Monday the Preston Coroner held an inquest touching the death of Samuel Ellithorne, hairdresser, who died on Saturday evening from the effects of laudanum. On that evening the deceased sent his son, a lad 9 years old, to the shop of Mr. William Forrest Livesey, chemist, for a penny-worth of laudanum, on four different occasions. It was given to the boy in an open glass, and his father drank the laudanum each time the boy fetched it. Deceased's widow said she had never known her husband to take opiates, but he had threatened to do away with himself. Mr. Livesey deposed that he had supplied the boy once with laudanum, and his assistants had supplied him three times. The Coroner: Don't you think you ought to be more careful in supplying poisons openly in a glass without any further precaution? Mr. Livesey: The precaution I took was to label the glass "Poison." The Coroner: But in the case of a child, do you think that sufficient? Mr. Livesey: I told

the boy to be careful, and that it was poison, and I thought that was sufficient. The Coroner: I don't agree with you, and I don't think the jury will, either. The jury found, as their verdict, that deceased had met his death by misadventure, being of opinion that he had taken laudanum to induce sleep. They were also unanimously of opinion that a chemist ought not to supply laudanum in an open glass, especially to young children. Mr. Livesey was called into the room, and informed of the finding of the jury. He was about to speak, when the Coroner said: I don't wish to argue with you. The practice is most reprehensible and objectionable. We hear a good deal about supplying drink to children, but surely drink is not so dangerous; and I would suggest that, in future, you supply laudanum only in bottles.

Chemists' Balls.

Next week is to be a gay week for dancing pharmacists. The parent chemists' ball will celebrate its thirtieth anniversary on Wednesday next, January 15, at the Portman Rooms, Baker Street, W. Mr. John C. Umney, of 48 and 50 Southwark Street, is the honorary secretary, and will supply tickets at 12s. 6d. and 17s. 6d. each, for ladies and gentlemen respectively.

The sixth annual ball of the Brighton Junior Association of Pharmacy will be held on Tuesday, January 14, at the Royal Pavilion. Tickets, 7s 6d. gentlemen and 6s. 6d. ladies, including refreshments and sit-down supper, obtainable of the honorary secretary, Mr. Capit, and members of committee. The Senior Association in Brighton do not intend giving a ball this season at all, so that the Juniors will have the field to themselves.

The Mayors of Plymouth and Devonport have accepted invitations to the ball which the chemists of the district have arranged to hold at the Town Hall, Stonehouse, on Wednesday next, January 15. This is the first dance promoted by the local Association, and the committee hope to make it a great success.

The Manchester Pharmaceutical Association are to have their third annual ball and musical promenade at the Hulme Town Hall, Manchester, on Wednesday, January 22. Mr. Harry Kemp is chairman, Mr. T. B. Blyton hon. treasurer, and Mr. A. Blackburn, 7 Exchange Street, Manchester, hon. secretary of the Ball Committee. Double tickets, 12s. 6d.

Analysts Dine.

The members of the Society of Public Analysts, with a number of friends, dined together at the Criterion Restaurant on Wednesday evening. Dr. Thomas Stevenson, F.R.S., President of the Society, occupied the chair, and he was supported by Mr. Hudson E. Kearley, M.P. (of Kearley & Tonge), Mr. T. H. Elliott (Board of Agriculture), Dr. R. Thorne Thorne, C.B. (Local Government Board), Professor Thorpe, F.R.S. (Director of the Government Laboratories), Mr. A. Vernon Harcourt, F.R.S. (President of the Chemical Society), Mr. M. Carteighe (President of the Pharmaceutical Society), Mr. T. Tyrer (President of the Society of Chemical Industry), Mr. Otto Hehner, and many leading analysts. The delicate task of proposing "The Houses of Parliament" was entrusted to Mr. Otto Hehner, "a German by birth, but a naturalised Englishman," and his speech was thoroughly English, and evoked hearty good-will, and his last sentences, in which he feared that the complications which had arisen would rather tend to diminish the prospects of domestic legislation, which they had looked forward to, in the way of repressing and preventing the adulteration of food, had a sympathetic response from Mr. Kearley, who replied. But Mr. Kearley spoke chiefly of the American question. Amongst the other speakers were Dr. Thorne Thorne, who replied for his department; Mr. Vernon Harcourt, who spoke for the learned societies; and Mr. Carteighe, who gave the toast of the evening, "The Society of Public Analysts."

Stealing from a Chemist's Counter.

Alice Mercer was charged at Beverley on January 7 with stealing a bottle of perfume and a box of pastilles from the shop of Mr. T. Marshall, chemist and druggist, of North Bar Street. The Chief Constable stated that the prosecutor and other shopkeepers had lost articles for some time, and innocent persons had been suspected. On Saturday night a

watch was kept, and the prisoner was seen to take a bottle of scent from Mr. Marshall's counter whilst the assistant was getting some paraffin for her. A box of pastilles was found upon her, and at the house of her grandfather, with whom she lived, the police found a number of bottles of perfume and other things of the kind, which were identified by Mr. Marshall and Mr. Field, chemists, as being their property. The prisoner, who is only 13 years of age, pleaded guilty. The Mayor ordered her to be detained in the custody of the Chief Constable until Thursday. In the meantime the Bench would see what they should do with her.

Harlenians [Happy.

The sixth annual dinner to the employés of Edwards' Harlene took place at the warehouse, 95 High Holborn, on January 3. Over thirty sat down to a well-ordered dinner, at the close of which the host was taken by surprise by the presentation to himself of a silver waiter, with inscription, from the employés. Dancing, singing, music, and games were revelled in up to a late hour, when a few well-chosen words "Wishing all present a very happy new year" from the proprietor brought the evening to a close.

Electing a Dispenser.

The Guardians of the City of London Union appointed a dispenser for their infirmary at Bow, at their meeting held at 61 Bartholomew Close, on Tuesday afternoon. The salary offered was 100*l.* a year, with dinner and tea daily. A number of applications were made for the post, and of the candidates the Infirmary Committee recommended the following three to the consideration of the Board from whom to select one—viz.: Sydney Dodd, aged 26 years, single (Assistant's certificate of the Society of Apothecaries); Alfred Musgrave Usher, aged 27 years, married (Minor certificate of the Pharmaceutical Society); William Herbert Warhurst, aged 26 years, single (Assistant's certificate of the Society of Apothecaries). Each candidate was called into the board-room and questioned, and on a show of hands there voted—for Mr. Dodd, 12; for Mr. Usher, 9; for Mr. Warhurst, 31. The last-named was therefore declared duly elected.

Infants' Foods at an Inquest.

At an inquest on a 16-months-old child named Mills, at Winchcombe, on January 1, the father stated that the child was principally fed on Neave's food, but had had some of Dr. Ridge's. It had had about 1*d.* worth of new milk daily. Mr. W. Cox, M.R.C.S., who made a *post-mortem* examination, said that about three years ago the same parents lost a child which was ill much in the same way as the present one. He reluctantly gave a certificate then, though there was no doubt it died for want of proper food. When this child died he thought it his duty to refuse a certificate. The child weighed less than 7 lbs. There was no evidence of disease whatever, and in his opinion the child died from want of proper nourishment. He was afraid this was a bad advertisement for both the foods mentioned. Almost all those so-called infants' foods were starvation foods, and Winslow's soothing-syrup was very bad indeed for infants. The want of nourishment in the body was consistent with the use of these foods. It might as well have been fed on sawdust; $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of milk was not sufficient for the child. In reply to a jurymen Mr. Cox stated that there was opium in Winslow's syrup. The mother, in course of examination, stated that the child had had oatmeal as well as the other foods. Ridge's food was what she had principally given it. No one had recommended her to use the soothing-syrup, though she had seen it highly recommended. She had the first bottle six months ago, and gave the child a teaspoonful in the morning and another one in the evening. She did not do this regularly, however. The chemist refused her a bottle of Winslow's syrup about a week before the child died, not because he thought she had been using too much, but because she did not send the money. The Deputy Coroner (Mr. S. P. Ryland) said it appeared that the parents for want of wisdom had tried to bring the child up on the wrong food and, to his mind, insufficient of that. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that death was due to atrophy, brought about by gross neglect and want of proper food, the jury adding that in their opinion the father and mother were equally responsible for the neglect.

Chlorodyne-poisoning.

Thomas Henry Patrick, foreman builder, of Hackney, died on New Year's Day from the effects of chlorodyne-poisoning. An entry was found in a diary he had kept, intimating that he believed his wife intended to poison him. The wife, at the inquest, said he had ill-used her. Ultimately the jury found he had committed suicide whilst of unsound mind.

Dr. Danford Thomas held an inquest at St. Giles's Coroner's Court, on January 8, concerning the death of Dr. Charles Bayle, aged 52, an embalmer, of French nationality, lately residing at 38 Keppel Street, Russell Square, who died on Monday last from the effects of an overdose of chlorodyne. Carl Lebrun, of Paris, his nephew, said the deceased had been in the habit of taking large quantities of drugs in order to procure relief from the pain caused by a cancer in the chest. William Andreas, assistant to the deceased, stated that the doctor was under treatment by Dr. Lloyd, who was trying to cure him of the pernicious habit of taking chlorodyne in large doses. The doctor, who was very weak and in bed, was not left alone for more than a minute, but during that interval he appears to have obtained a pint bottle of chlorodyne from the top of a high medicine-chest and taken about 2 oz. The jury returned a verdict of death by misadventure.

Suicide of a Chemist's Assistant.

An inquest was held at Torquay, on Tuesday last, on the body of Charles Albert Snow (19), a chemist's assistant, who had died from the effects of taking prussic acid on the previous day. Mr. Bathe, chemist, Fleet Street, stated that he left deceased in charge of his business during the dinner-hour, and on returning found several customers waiting, but no one in attendance. On going upstairs he found his assistant lying on the floor, with three empty prussic-acid bottles by his side, the air being full of the acid fumes. Dr. Gardner, who was called, found deceased had died from the effects of the poison. There was no evidence to show why suicide had been committed, as his employer stated that he had been quite cheerful of late, having been home for the Christmas with his friends at Brixton. His father, who was present at the inquest, stated that there was a trace of insanity in the family, upon which the jury returned a verdict of suicide whilst temporarily insane.



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Belladonna for Beer.

A Dublin policeman, named Sweeney, swallowed some of the contents of a bottle in the barrack last Saturday night, under the impression apparently that it contained some malt liquor. The stuff, however, turned out to be a preparation of belladonna. Sergeant Doherty, in charge of the station, administered emetics and also summoned a medical man from the city, who attended to the sufferer, but every effort proved unavailing, and the poor fellow died on Sunday night.

Adulterated Linseed-meal.

Fines of 20s and costs were imposed last week on Samuel McDowell, 209 Shankhill Road, and Samuel Suffern, 328 Shankhill Road, both druggists, of Belfast, for selling adulterated linseed-meal. In the first case the defendant alleged that the inspector was told it was crushed cake linseed which was sold to him, and in the other that the article was so labelled and that this was pointed out to the inspector.

The Castlereagh Compounder.

The Local Government Board has asked the Castlereagh Dispensary Committee to give a statement of their reasons

for the proposed appointment of a compounder for the district. Some members of the Committee were inclined to resent this inquiry, on the ground that it was unusual, but it was pointed out that the Treasury paid half the salary, so the majority thought the application reasonable, and the grounds for the appointment (the increase of medical work in the district) are to be furnished.

Death of Dr. Kidd, of Dublin.

The death of Dr. George Hugh Kidd, of Dublin, causes a vacancy in the Irish representation on the General Medical Council. Dr. Cuming, the leading consulting physician in Belfast, will most likely be the successful candidate for the vacancy, as there is a strong feeling that it should be filled by a member of the profession outside Dublin.

The Local Government Board on Patent Medicines.

The Local Government Board, Dublin, has addressed to the Edenderry Board of Guardians a long communication on the subject of the use of patent or proprietary medicines in dispensaries under the Poor-law Unions Act, the report having special reference to medicinal preparations used at the Rathangan Dispensary. The Board states that its inspector, Dr. Stafford, reported recently on the supplies of medicine in that district, and that the explanation received being deemed unsatisfactory, the Board caused the facts to be entered in the official records against the officer concerned. The Local Government Board proceed to say that the list of authorised drugs and medical preparations given in the dispensary rules had been prepared from the British Pharmacopœia, the resources of which were found sufficient for the requirements of medical practitioners generally. As, however, the Guardians had entered into a contract for medicines, including "a number of patent and proprietary preparations not authorised by the British Pharmacopœia, the Local Government Board have directed the attention of their auditor to the matter, with the view to his disallowing any expense incurred in respect thereof. The Local Government Board cannot sanction the use of the list, as they are not prepared to recommend the Treasury to recoup any portion of the cost of patent and proprietary medicines." Dr. Stafford's report on the same matter stated that he had found that the dispensary medical officer of this district had ordered some of those expensive patent-medicines which had not yet received the approval of the British Pharmacopœia, and added that if a dispensary medical officer "desired to experiment with new drugs or non-official remedies he must do so at his own expense, as the rate-payers and the Treasury cannot be expected to pay for this class of experiment." In his explanation the dispensary medical officer, Dr. Bray, denies that the outlay was excessive, as only a very small sum was so expended, and shows that although during 1895 some hundreds more patients were prescribed for than in the previous year, yet the cost of medicines last year was only one-half what it was in 1894. The Guardians have decided to adhere in future to the official list compiled from the B.P.

The Ulster Aërated-water Trade.

Reviewing the papers of the aërated-water industry during 1895 the *Belfast News Letter* says that the manufacture of mineral waters in Ulster had been more satisfactory than in 1894. The home trade expansion was not, however, in proportion to the export. The importation of foreign-made bottles was 16 per cent. less than last year, but the figures are sufficiently good to tempt the enterprising to start a bottle-blowing industry in Belfast.

An Apothecary by Courtesy.

Sir Charles Cameron, public analyst, has received, *honoris causa*, the diploma of the Apothecaries' Hall of Ireland, a compliment rarely conferred.

A Druggist Candidate for Parliament.

Sir James H. Haslett, President of the Ulster Branch of the Chemists' and Druggists' Association of Ireland, is the popular candidate for the Parliamentary representation of North Belfast rendered vacant by the death of Sir Edward Harland. Sir James Haslett has represented the same constituency in Parliament before.

Pharmaceutical Chemists' and Apothecaries' Assistants' Association of Ireland.

A meeting of this Association was held on December 3. Mr. J. Hardy was elected honorary secretary of the Association, *vice* Mr. James Long, L.P.S.I., who has been appointed to the management of the Tipperary Medical Hall.

Mr. W. Payne read a paper, contributed anonymously, on "Some Obligations and Responsibilities of Pharmaceutical Chemists." The author urged that it is obligatory on the chemist to test or otherwise examine all drugs and chemicals that come into his possession before placing them on their dispensing-counter. The chemist of to-day does not powder his own roots, or boil his own lead plasters, nor does he make or prepare a tincture of the preparations which he uses, but instead he depends on the manufacturing and wholesale chemists for most of them, and from these he usually selects the most reliable. It is, however, a mistake to put too much faith and confidence even in the most reliable of them. They are not infallible, as a reference to the reports published in the trade Press of prosecutions instituted under the Food and Drugs Act will prove. The argument is sometimes put forward that no chemist has time to test and scientifically examine his drugs and chemicals, but this plea is not usually taken as an excuse for wrong-doing. The pharmaceutical chemist must have taken out courses of practical chemistry, *materia medica*, and botany, and a four years' term of practical pharmacy, and it is not too much to expect of him to carry the knowledge which he has acquired into his every day's work. By so doing he not only raises the standard of his profession in the eyes of the medical faculty, but he also educates the public into a truer and better appreciation of himself and his calling.

Presentation to a Pharmacist.

Mr. A. J. Paterson, L.P.S.I., was last week presented by the assistants of Messrs. W. Hayes & Co., pharmaceutical chemist, Grafton Street, Dublin, with a massive silver salver and valuable tea and coffee service, on the occasion of his leaving that firm to take the management of Messrs. Bowers & Co.'s Medical Hall, Great Brunswick Street. Mr. William Hayes, the head of the establishment, also presented Mr. Paterson with a set of six volumes of the Rev. Dr. Miller's works.

The Pharmaceutical Society v. Alexander Boyd & Co. (Limited).

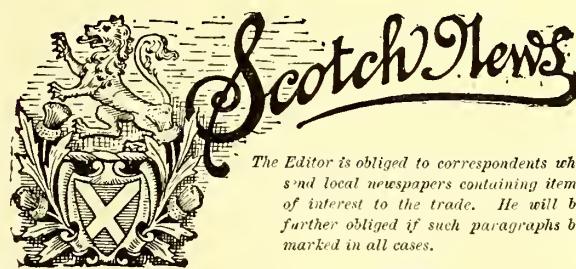
At Lisburn Petty Sessions, on January 2, Mr. Wells, President, and Mr. Ferrall, Registrar, of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, attended and affixed the Society's seal to the recognisance binding the Society to prosecute their appeal against the decision of the Magistrates given in September last dismissing the charges brought against Alexander Boyd & Co. (Limited), of Lisburn, for breaches of the Pharmacy Act. Mr. Galway, solicitor, Belfast, appeared for the Society, and Mr. Charley, solicitor, Lisburn, for the defendant company.

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland—Preliminary Examination.

The following candidates have passed:—Miss C. M. Jessop, Messrs. T. W. Campion, J. D. Hunt, M. B. Widdess and J. P. E. Wright (equal), Miss M. K. McKnight, Messrs. J. Jennings and F. W. Warren (equal), J. Johnston, T. J. Anderson and M. Campbell (equal), W. Baxter, M. J. Monaghan, and C. B. Palmer. Nine were rejected.

AT IT AGAIN.—A Bill has been introduced into the Georgia Legislature to enact that every patent, proprietary, or other medicine (except physicians' prescriptions) shall bear on label or wrapper the proportions of each ingredient. It is not likely to pass.

NO FREE BOXES.—Hitherto it has not been the custom of the wholesale drug-trade in the Eastern parts of the United States to charge retailers with the price of packing boxes and cartage; last month they began to charge, with the result that retailers are up in arms against the innovation.



The Editor is obliged to correspondents who send local newspapers containing items of interest to the trade. He will be further obliged if such paragraphs be marked in all cases.

Glasgow Parish Medicines.

The Glasgow City Parish Council, at its meeting on January 7, agreed to purchase from Messrs. W. & R. Hattrick & Co., wholesale chemists, a 25 gallon cask of cod-liver oil for 8*l*. A report was submitted showing that during the past month the outdoor poor in the parish had 187 prescriptions made up in the following private dispensaries:—The Glasgow Apothecaries' Company, 17; Messrs. J. & R. Rodman, 79; and Mr. D. P. Walker, 91. The Council appointed Mr. John Cairns to the assistant-apothecaryship at a weekly salary of 18*s*. In accordance with a resolution passed by the Council in October, the apothecary has prepared for reference a list of firms and others supplying goods to the dispensary. A minute of the Medical Committee was approved by the Council expressing disapproval of the prescription of proprietary medicine by the medical officer. He had expressed himself as being quite agreeable to fall in with the wishes of the committee. It was agreed that an extract of this part of the minutes be sent to each member of the outdoor medical staff.

French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

AT THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, last Monday, a Vice-President had to be elected in place of M. Cornu, who passes by right to the Presidency. There were three candidates—M. Chatin, Friedel, and Van Tieghem. M. Chatin was elected by a majority of 32 votes. The new Vice-President is a member of the Academy of Medicine and honorary director of the Paris School of Pharmacy. He is well known as an eminent naturalist, also by his published works on botany.

THE PHARMACIE CENTRALE DE FRANCE.—In an open letter addressed to the shareholders of this company on the occasion of the New Year, the Director, M. Charles Buchet, expresses the opinion that French pharmacy is in "full revolution of ideas and things." Questions of professional interest are, he says, very difficult to follow at this moment, and it is almost impossible to arrive at a decided opinion; the only thing he sees feasible is to await eventualities. He refers to the Paris International Exhibition of 1900 as possibly introducing a new century in which healthy good sense will have the better of the eccentricities of conception of the present *fin de siècle*.

THE ATTACK ON A PHARMACY.—Provincial pharmacists seem to have manifested a greater interest in the recent attack on a pharmacy by students than their Parisian colleagues, perhaps because they take the sudden attack of virtue seriously which has caught the "cutter" in question in the prime of life. In letters addressed by them to some of the country newspapers they protest, with the aid of figures, that they at least are not fortunate enough to earn from 400 to 500 per cent. profit. It is interesting to note that, as a rule, the pharmacists are supported in this defence by their press in various localities. For instance, the *Union Nationale* of Bordeaux says:—"The leading pharmacists by no means sell at exorbitant prices, and patients will never complain that a medicine is too expensive when they know that its value consists in its absolute purity, on which they can rely. On the other hand, no imprecation is too severe against those parasites of phar-

macy who impudently offer at high prices impure drugs, which may produce the opposite effect to that intended by the doctor."

CONTAGION BY BOOKS was brought up again at a recent meeting of the Paris Academy of Medicine by M. du Cazal. He gave the results of experiments made by himself and M. Chatrin, concerning the transmission of diphtheria, tuberculosis, and typhoid fever by books. They were able to kill animals by injections of bouillon brought into contact with paper slightly damped beforehand with various morbid products. In consequence they repeat the opinion that there is real danger in handling books that have been in the hands of persons suffering from infectious maladies, especially in turning over the leaves with a finger wetted with saliva, as children often do. MM. du Cazal and Chatrin have tried various methods of disinfection, but find that bound books will not support an effectual process.

MORTALITY SINCE THE USE OF SERUM.—According to inquiries made by Dr. Henry Monod since the introduction of anti-diphtheric serum in January, 1895, the number of deaths by diphtheria has gone on gradually decreasing as the use of the serum becomes more general. In the 108 towns of France counting more than 20,000 inhabitants, which are the only ones that supply regular statistics, the average of deaths per annum from diphtheria was 2,627 during the seven years from 1888 to 1894. During the first half of last year the number had diminished to 904, or by 65 per cent. This decrease has continued, as the monthly statistics show. Dr. Monod considers that diphtheria is as prevalent in rural districts as in the towns, and he does not consider it an exaggeration to estimate that 1,500 lives will be spared annually in France by the use of the anti-diphtheric serum.

PARIS STUDENTS.—The General Association of Students held its annual meeting a few days ago in the large amphitheatre of the Paris School of Medicine. About four hundred young men were present, and, as they were in excellent spirits, their president, M. Mervart, had some difficulty in keeping them in hand. The section of the Alfort School for Veterinary Surgery being very small, the committee brought forward a proposal to the effect that it should be amalgamated with that of Pharmacy. This suggestion, however, was not welcome to the pharmaceutical students, who are numerous, and an uproarious discussion followed, which resulted in the proposition being rejected. The Association exists "for promoting the material and moral welfare" of the students of the various Paris faculties. It occupies several suites of rooms at 41 Rue des Ecoles, Paris, which comprise libraries, a meeting hall, committee-room, various offices, &c. Each school elects so many delegates to the central committee, and every delegate carries the votes of an equal number of students. The budget of the Association amounted to 33,428 francs (1,338*l*) last year, but it is hoped to increase it in the future by means of a larger subvention from the City of Paris and by certain donations. At the last mid-Lent procession through the streets the students had a leading part, those of medicine and pharmacy carrying with them the instruments, &c., identified with their professions. The General Association is, of course, independent of the Syndical Association of French Assistant Pharmacists.—At a recent meeting of the General Council of the Paris Faculties, M. Friedel read an interesting report on the situation of the University of that city during the past year. He mentioned that 1,802 students were inscribed at the School of Pharmacy, 5,445 at the School of medicine, and 500 at the Faculty of Sciences. In all he estimates that 12,000 students are attached to the Paris University at present. This number is constantly increasing, and consequently the new buildings of the Schools of Pharmacy and Medicine, although only recently finished, are already found to be too small. M. Friedel expressed the opinion that some means should be found to induce young men to attach themselves to provincial universities instead of flocking in such numbers to the capital. The foreigners amongst the Paris students number 1,400 or more.

KEEP THIS IN MIND.—According to Dr. Francesco Abba aerated soda-water destroys the bacillus of cholera in three hours, and that of typhoid in four hours.

Foreign and Colonial News.

THE DISPENSARY LAW IN SOUTH CAROLINA has of late been so rigidly enforced that many druggists are afraid to sell even medicinal wines. It seriously interfered with the sales of Vin Mariani, but owing to the proprietors' protestations that wine has been specially exempted from the workings of the law.

PHENACETIN IN U.S.A.—Mr. Edward N. Dickerson, who on behalf of Bayer & Co. and Schieffelin & Co., has been prosecuting Chicago and other American druggists for selling phenacetin which had not passed through the latter firm's hands, has agreed to compromise the cases on the sixteen defendants paying 50c. per oz. for the phenacetin purchased.

THE "NATIONAL DRUGGIST" IN FLAMES.—Our sympathies go out to the editor of the *National Druggist*, of St. Louis. When the December issue was ready for the mail the printing-house caught fire, and the whole of the edition was utterly destroyed. The number which comes to us shows nothing of the calamity except the editorial note, and this effective reproduction, with everything new except a set of corrected proofs, is excellent evidence that the *Druggist* is worthy of the support it receives.

POSTCARD-ADVERTISING.—The issue of the intercolonial advertising postcard by the Government of Victoria, to which we referred in our issue of December 21 last, has provoked such expressions of dissatisfaction in the colony that the postal authorities have been obliged to withdraw the cards from circulation. They have also refunded to the advertisers the full amount of money—950*l*.—paid by them for their advertising-spaces on the cards. The net result of the experiment has therefore been an excellent advertisement for the Havelock tobacco and the Foster lager beer at the expense of the colony.

CUTTING IN ONTARIO.—A meeting was recently held at Toronto of druggists from various parts of the province of Ontario, for the purpose of forming an association for protecting the interests of the retail trade. Mr. S. Tapscott, of Brantford, presided, and it was agreed to form the "Ontario Society of Retail Druggists," the members of which should on election "sign an agreement not to sell patent and proprietary medicines at prices below those intended by the manufacturer, and to sell drugs, sundries, and specialities at prices at which they are usually and fairly sold, or as agreed upon by the Society, and upon payment to the Treasurer of an annual subscription of *£1*." Already fully 400 retail druggists have joined the Society. Mr. G. E. Gibbard, of Toronto, has been appointed president, and Mr. J. T. Pepper, of Woodstock, is Secretary-Treasurer. The *Canadian Druggist* states that Mr. G. E. Gibbard, the President, is prominently connected with the retail drug-trade of Toronto, his chief place of business being on the corner of John and King Streets, immediately opposite the Arlington Hotel. He is just in the prime of life. The wholesale druggists of the province have also organised.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.—The eleventh annual general meeting of this Association has recently been held at Port Elizabeth. Mr. J. McJannet, the President, occupied the chair. The balance-sheet showed an amount of 70*l*. on fixed deposit at the Standard Bank, Graham's Town, and a floating balance of 23*l*. 9s. 6*d*., showing the Association to be in a satisfactory financial position. The principal object of discussion related to the Cape Town branch of the Association, Messrs. Walsh and Mager reporting that they had visited Cape Town in February last, expecting to meet a deputation of the local chemists, with a view of discussing plans for strengthening the Association in the capital, but as the Cape Town pharmacists had failed to call a meeting the matter fell through, and nothing has since been done in this direction. Some further discussion ensued with regard to the prospects of the Association, and it was resolved that strong efforts be made to induce more chemists to become members. The following officers were elected to serve for the ensuing year:—President, Mr. James McJannet; Vice-President, Mr. J. A. Willet; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. G. F. Dutton; Committee, Messrs. A. E. Austen, G. E. Cook, W. K. Mager, H. Tebb, A. Walsh, and E. W. Wells.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

COUNCIL MEETING.

IT was nearly 11.30 on Wednesday morning before the Council settled down to work in the absence of Messrs. Gostling (Diss), Johnston (Aberdeen), and Storrar (Kirkcaldy). There were three outstanding features of the meeting—first, an appeal for immediate support to the Benevolent Fund, as the committee have started the year by paying grants amounting to 84*l.*; second, the change of the evening meetings from the second Wednesday to the first Tuesday after the Council meeting; and, third, the President's warning in regard to branch shops (elsewhere commented upon). Beyond these matters the business was of quite a routine character, and undeserving of further reference than is made to it below.

THE PRIVY COUNCIL APPROVES.

The first matter taken after the minutes were passed was the approval of the recently elected examiners by the Privy Council. This came in the form of a formidable document forwarded by Sir Charles Peel. Following this was the

ELECTION OF ADHERENTS.

An unusually large number generally come forward in January; indeed, our reporter stopped counting the students and assistants as Mr. Carteighe, the President, rattled over their surnames. A score of men in business were elected associates and members.

FINANCE.

The year has begun, so far as the Society's own account is concerned, with a balance of 785*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.* from last year, and demands for immediate payment of 1,714*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* in respect to salaries and annuities, journal expenses, current expenses (Edinburgh 300*l.*, London 350*l.*), research laboratory (87*l.* 10*s.*), and rates, taxes, &c. It appears that the receipts during December were 3,148*l.* The Benevolent Fund accounts were also reported upon.

The PRESIDENT said the December receipts were chiefly from examination-fees and penalties and costs, and as to the payments there was nothing abnormal about them. The only special thing was that some old subscribers to the Benevolent Fund had come in with their subscriptions towards the end of the year, and Mr. Gostling had given them a donation of 5*l.* 5*s.* On the Orphan Fund there was now enough money to support another orphan, and Mr. Hills would have to deal with it. There were surely plenty of orphans about. They had since last meeting received from the secretary of "Camwal" 100*l.* shares in the company as a donation to the Benevolent Fund, 50 from Mr. Davenport, the chairman, and 50 from him and his co-directors jointly. He asked authority to return thanks officially, and wished to explain that though the Society might not invest money in such shares, there was nothing to prevent them receiving them. They incurred no liability by so doing. He was sure that the friends of the Benevolent Fund would be grateful for this handsome donation. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BOTTLE asked what the 87*l.* 10*s.* to the research fund meant.

The PRESIDENT replied 50*l.* to the director and 37*l.* 10*s.* for expenses—in fact, what had been paid regularly for some time.

BENEVOLENT FUND.

The report dealt with nine applications for relief, and the committee recommended one grant of 20*l.*, two of 15*l.* each, two of 12*l.* each, and one of 10*l.* Two cases were deferred for further consideration, and one was "not entertained."

Mr. HAMPSON, the Treasurer, submitted this report. He said the grants amounted to 84*l.* The largest grant was to the widow of an annuitant who had died immediately after his election. They had other applications from widows. One had been found by Mr. Bremeridge to be in a starving condition, and was temporarily relieved. Another was brought

under their notice by Mr. Reynolds, of Leeds, and the grant made would enable her, with self-help, to maintain herself respectably. A fourth case was one in which they gave 12*l.* This was in the nature of an annuity, and he added, in regard to that, that some of the members had a feeling that they should have smaller annuities, for there were cases which could be met by less sums than 50*l.*

Mr. ATKINS took the seasonable opportunity to appeal to the benevolent-minded in the trade to support the fund, for the committee were now giving away all they got. The day before they had voted a large sum, but they could not vote less; and he thought if the trade knew how beneficial their subscriptions were they would respond freely. A gratifying circumstance in the present grants was the large amount of local interest taken in the cases. The committee had been greatly helped in coming to their decisions not only by the information which they received from local secretaries, but from other chemists in the districts where the applicants resided. He regarded this as a good sign. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. HAMPSON endorsed what Mr. Atkins had said, and, as Treasurer, remarked that they certainly required further aid.

Mr. HARRISON called attention to a statement made by one applicant—viz., that he had exhausted his resources by circulating cards to promote his election at the recent poll for annuitants. It seemed to him (Mr. Harrison) that this was a practical object-lesson of the necessity for a change in their mode of procedure in selecting candidates.

The PRESIDENT said he had not much to do with the administration of the fund, as he was otherwise engaged when the committee met; he was therefore gratified to see that the committee were screwing up their courage to vote respectable sums to applicants. (Hear, hear.) He did not care though they had nothing left after that, for the value of 20*l.* was infinitely greater than half that amount. He had no fear that their brethren would not support them, for he had noticed there was a kindly feeling abroad which was specially manifested when country pharmacists came up to London to help them at the annuitant election time. The times were not brilliant, and there were not so many able to give large sums, but there was a greater number able to give small sums, and he hoped that the amount would be given by these. (Hear, hear.)

The report was adopted.

LITERARY, LABORATORY, MUSEUM, AND HOUSE.

The professors and director of research had reported to this committee upon their departments; so had the Librarian and Curator. The committee moved that the President and Messrs. Allen and Martindale should be appointed to confer with the Burroughs Memorial Committee. It was recommended that the evening meetings should be held on the Tuesday following the annual meeting, in February, March, April, November, and December.

The PRESIDENT, in moving the adoption of the report, said he expected that the Burroughs Memorial Committee would meet in a week or so. He explained, regarding the evening-meeting date, that there was now so much committee-work done on the old day that it was hard upon the officers to have an evening meeting the same day. Tuesday evening would suit country members, and as the Chemists' Assistants' Association met on Thursdays many of the able young men in it could not arrange to get off two consecutive evenings. He thought the change would be acceptable.

RESTORATIONS TO THE REGISTER.

The names of Messrs. F. H. Appleyard, Fitzroy, Victoria; Archibald Farr, Hammersmith; and Thomas Taylor, Liverpool, were restored to the register of chemists and druggists.

After the President had tabled a letter from the Edinburgh Chemists' Trade Association thanking the Council for its action respecting company law, and explained the absence of Mr. Gostling, he brought on the subject of

BRANCH SHOPS.

In doing this he said his desire was to call the attention of local secretaries to their duties in respect to any of their neighbours who were carrying on business contrary to law by having branch shops in charge of unqualified assistants.

It was necessary for the Council to act in such cases, and they had acted, but there were still many of these shops extant in charge of unqualified men. He mentioned the matter because he thought some of their brethren would speak about it to chemists in that position, so that they might make a change before it was too late. He could conceive nothing so detrimental to their general interests as to calmly allow any of their brothers to carry on one or more branch pharmacies in contravention of the Pharmacy Act, without pointing out to them the illegality. The ethics of pharmacy required that local secretaries should call upon such persons and ask them in a kindly way to stop. To ask for clemency was a doubtful way of getting out of it, as it was the Society's duty to see that the Act was strictly enforced, and it was the chemist's duty to his neighbour as much as the Council's duty to see the law carried out. The Council was not anxious to get penalties, and preferred to enforce the law by giving information beforehand. While he sympathised with chemists and druggists with the struggle they had in the battle of life, he could not, either officially or personally, sympathise with a thing which was wrong, and could hold out no hope of clemency after this.

Mr. BOTTLE endorsed what the President had said, but thought it was the special duty of the local secretary to give his neighbours warning about the matter.

Mr. HILLS said the truth probably lay between what the President and Mr. Bottle said—both local secretaries and friends of offenders should give the latter warning.

Personalities.

MR. WM. BANBURY, who wrote to us last week from Nottingham, will oblige us by sending his exact address.

SIR HENRY STEPHENSON, J.P., has promised to take the chair at the Montgomery Hall, Sheffield, on the occasion of the lecture entitled "The Swiss Alps," by Mr. W. Lamond Howie, F.C.S., of London, on January 29.

MR. WM. BULGEN, who until a year ago was in business at Broadway, Leyton, as a chemist and druggist, and whose son, Mr. Bulgen, still carries on the business, has sustained a sad affliction. Twelve months ago Mr. Bulgen, sen., together with his wife and son, left England for Sydney, Australia; and news has just reached Leyton to the effect that, whilst boating there, Mr. Bulgen, jun., was drowned.

THE *Western Mail* (Cardiff) states:—"We hear that a marriage has been arranged, to take place shortly, between Mr. Gwilym Evans, J.P., of Llanelli, and Miss Glasbrook, only daughter of the late Mr. John Glasbrook, of Norton House, Oystermouth, Swansea. The news of the union of two such well-known and highly-respected Welsh people will be hailed, we feel sure, with general interest and acclamation. Mr. Evans is particularly well known by his connection with important industrial concerns in Llanelli, Swansea, and neighbourhood, and is possessed of an ample fortune. This will be at least doubled, so it is said, by the marriage with Miss Glasbrook, who is the sister of Messrs. John, David M., and Isaac Glasbrook, and was, of course, a co-inheritor with them of the immense property of the late Mr. John Glasbrook."

ON Monday evening, January 6, in the large Baptist schoolroom, Astwood, near Birmingham, a crowded audience assembled to do honour to "John Knowles Andrews, chemist and gentleman." Mr. Andrews was presented with a "testimonial" consisting of a silver tea-and-coffee service, a gold watch and chain, an illuminated address, and an autograph album containing the signatures of the host of subscribers. Mr. George Timson, who presided, made the presentation, and a number of speakers bore testimony to the good work and character of Mr. Andrews, who, in responding, admitted knowing his way unassisted to the bedroom of every individual on the place; and if he had charged no fee it was because as a chemist he could not charge at a doctor's rate, and if he had had no money for his services it certainly was not the fault of Astwood folk. Astwood people had always placed implicit trust in him, and he had had undivided support from the doctors of the district, who regarded him as a sort of unqualified assistant.

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

THE monthly meeting of the Council was held on January 1. Present:—Mr. W. F. Wells, jun. (President), Mr. Downes (Vice-President), Mr. Beggs (Treasurer), and Messrs. Montgomery (Belfast), Bernard, Grindley, Professor Tichborne, Hayes, and Charles Evans.

THE GOVERNMENT VISITOR'S REPORT.

Mr. Dougherty, Clerk of the Privy Council, forwarded the report of Dr. Duffey to the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council on the examinations held during the past twelve months. The report contained the following:—

Preliminary Examination.—It is gratifying to report that the number of candidates who presented themselves for this examination during the year shows a considerable increase, and that the proportion of those who passed is the largest since the examinations have been visited. Ninety-five candidates, 2 of whom were women, presented themselves; 73 (76.8 per cent.) passed and 22 (23.2 per cent.) were rejected. Seventeen of the total number had been once, and 3 had been twice, previously rejected at Preliminary examinations. Of the 17, 10 passed at their second examination, the remaining 7 being again rejected. The 3 who were examined for the third time all passed. The examiner informed me—and the marks also show—that there was a general improvement in the answering of the candidates. In some cases it was of a high order of merit. One of the candidates obtained a total of 83 per cent., and another—a woman—a total of 78 per cent. There were 5 other candidates whose answering was over 70 per cent. Of the 22 unsuccessful candidates, 1 failed in five of the seven subjects of examination, 8 in four subjects, 3 in three, 8 in two, 1 in one, and 1 retired. The largest number of failures (19) was in "Weights and Measures." There were 17 failures in "Arithmetic," and 10 in "English." In these three subjects 50 per cent. of the marks allotted to each must be obtained in order to pass. The pass-standard of the four remaining subjects is only 20 per cent. In these there were 6 failures in "Geometry," 5 in "Algebra," and 3 in "Latin" and in the optional subject respectively. The optional subject most frequently chosen was "Chemistry." In my last report I presented some figures showing that a large proportion of the successful candidates at the Preliminary examinations held during the year 1894 had obtained only the bare pass-marks in one or other, or in several cases in all three, of the subjects of the examination in which 50 per cent. of the total marks allotted to each subject must be obtained in order to pass. I demonstrated that, out of 47 successful candidates in that year, the bare pass-marks had been obtained by 18, or 38.2 per cent., in "English"; by 33, or 70.2 per cent., in "Arithmetic"; and by 25, or 53 per cent., in "Weights and Measures." And I ventured to draw the inference from such large percentages of candidates having just barely managed to get through the examinations that these figures were unsatisfactory, and indicated lamentable deficiencies in the elementary education of a large number of the candidates. From communications that subsequently passed between the Council of the Society and her Majesty's Privy Council—with copies of which I was favoured—it would appear that my observations were misunderstood. If the similar percentages of the 73 successful candidates during the present year are compared with those for 1894, it will be seen that, in 1895, 17.8 per cent. of those successful candidates obtained the bare pass-marks in "English," as against 38.2 per cent. in 1894; 35 per cent. in "Arithmetic," as compared with 70.2 per cent.; and 42.4 per cent. in "Weights and Measures," as compared with 53.1 per cent. The examiner being the same person both years, and presumably marking on the same standard throughout, the difference in the results shown by the examinations this year seems to me to indicate an improvement in the elementary education of a majority of the candidates, their marks being higher than the mediocrity of a mere pass. One can hardly fail to see, I think, that in any examination the more the pass standard—however satisfactory or otherwise it may be—is exceeded by the candidates the sounder and more efficient their education must be. Next year there will be—as I have long advocated—two examiners for the Preliminary examinations instead of a single examiner as heretofore. It will be interesting to observe if the improvement in general education noticeable in the candidates examined during the present year will continue.

Licence Examination.—As was the case with the Preliminary examinations the number of candidates who presented themselves during the year for examination for a licence exceeded that of any former year, but the percentage of successful candidates was lower than it has hitherto been, with the exception of the year 1886. There were altogether 68 candidates, one of whom was a woman, and one-half of the number only passed: 30 of the candidates had been previously rejected at the examinations for the licence—viz., 23 on one former occasion, 5 on two, 1 on three, and 1 on four former occasions. The latter candidate was allowed by the examiners, "on consultation," to pass on his fifth attempt, although the total of his marks on the whole examination in order to pass were 10½ below the required total laid down by the regulations. The subject in which the largest number of

failures occurred was—as also in 1894—chemistry. Of the 24 candidates (35·2 per cent.) who were rejected in it, 10 failed in the theoretical as well as in the practical portions of the examination, 9 in the theoretical portion alone, and 5 in the practical portion. In pharmacy there were 20 rejections. The majority of these (12) were due to bad answering in the written portion of the examinations. A noticeable improvement has taken place in “compounding.” There were only 7 rejections in this part of the examination in pharmacy. This satisfactory result seems to show that the action of the Council of the Society in insisting upon the paramount importance of a thorough knowledge of practical pharmacy in its licentiates, in accordance with the views expressed in my last report, has already done much to improve the instruction of the candidates in this most important part of a pharmacist's education. In the botany and *materia medica* group of subjects there were 11 rejections in botany, 1 rejection in *materia medica*, and 4 in both subjects. It is too soon as yet to note any marked results from the judicious step the Council of the Society took last year in requiring candidates for its licence to produce evidence of having previously attended in a recognised school a course of lectures in botany and *materia medica*. This regulation applied, for the first time, to the candidates at the examination in April last. Judging, however, from the success that has already attended the lectures that the Society has established in its own school in these subjects, and from the high character of the instruction that I am aware is given in it, as well as from the better answering at the two last quarterly examinations, satisfactory results may be reasonably anticipated. I can speak highly of the great pains taken by the examiners, and of the consideration shown by them to the candidates. The benches for the practical examination in chemistry and in pharmacy are adequately supplied with all necessary apparatus and materials; and the newly-equipped *materia medica* museum of the Society and the Gardens of the Science and Art Department at Glasnevin furnish amply sufficient specimens for the practical portion of the excellent examinations in botany and *materia medica*. Formerly it was the custom while the candidates were engaged in writing their answers to the paper on chemistry—which generally consisted of twelve questions, eight only of which were to be attempted, and for which a period of two and a half hours was allowed—to call on each candidate one by one for a ten-minutes' oral examination. At the last two quarterly examinations the examiner omitted the oral examination in chemistry, as, in his opinion, it occupied too much of the candidates' time. In lieu of the oral examination he now gives ten questions on the paper, all of which are compulsory. It appears to me that two and a half hours is too short a time to allow for answering ten such excellent questions in chemistry as those the very efficient examiner in this subject sets. The advisability of altogether omitting the oral examination is, perhaps, questionable, and I would suggest that the extent and accuracy of a candidate's theoretical knowledge of the subject would be more satisfactorily ascertained by giving a paper of, say, six questions, and an oral examination of ten minutes for each candidate, the ten minutes to be taken out of the time allowed for the written examination, which should be at least three hours. As I have the honour to be the first visitor of these examinations appointed in pursuance of the Pharmacy Act (Ireland), 1875, I beg to submit the annexed table showing the progress of the Society and the results of the examinations during the ten years I have held the office. At the same time, I wish to bear testimony to the general desire the Council of the Society have shown to improve the curriculum and the character of the examinations, in accordance with suggestions made in my reports, as well as to express my recognition of the courteous manner in which such suggestions have been received and considered. It is most gratifying to me to notice and to report the great advances the Society has made in securing a high educational and scientific training in its lieutenates.

Table showing the Results of the Examinations during the past Decade.

Year	Preliminary Examination			Licence Examination		
	Candi-	Percentage		Candi-	Percentage	
		Passed	Rejected		Passed	Rejected
1886	46	57·8	42·2	33	33·4	66·6
1887	45	52·2	47·8	44	57	43
1888	52	54	46	41	61	39
1889	54	57·4	42·6	32	57·6	42·4
1890	46	56·5	43·4	45	73·3	26·6
1891	98	62·2	37·7	33	78·3	21·7
1892	53	66	34	40	85	15
1893	77	67·6	32·6	43	67·4	32·6
1894	78	60·25	39·75	51	56·9	43·1
1895	95	76·8	23·2	68	50	50

The PRESIDENT: I think that is a very favourable report.
The REGISTRAR: The only thing resembling a stricture is

the reference to the dropping of the oral examination in chemistry.

Mr. HAYES: We have agreed that we will not permit that.

The PRESIDENT: You have only to tell your examiner that you wish it to be continued, and he will do it.

Professor TICHBORNE: If the President conveys the wish of the Council that the *viva voce* examination should be continued, it will be done.

The PRESIDENT: Mr. Ferrall can write a line to the examiner to that effect.

The report of Dr. Duffey was referred to the House Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A letter from Dr. Montgomery, Secretary of the Apothecaries' Hall, apprised the Council that William Stevens, of Rock View, Old Swan, Liverpool, regarding whom inquiry had been made, had passed the Apothecaries' Assistants' examination, and was competent to act as a dispenser under a duly qualified apothecary, but that he did not hold the licence of the Hall.

Letters were received from Messrs. Harry Harris and Arthur H. Todd, students of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, requesting that their names should be placed on the Preliminary register of the Irish Pharmaceutical Society.

The request was acceded to.

Letters notifying change of address were received from Messrs. W. J. Hardy, T. M. O'Connor, and A. J. Paterson, licentiates; and A. W. Mann and J. Deans, assistants.

A letter from Messrs. J. & G. Boyd, of Limerick, stated that a member of their firm, Mr. George Boyd, died on the 23rd of last March.

The PRESIDENT: The Registrar of Deaths has not informed us of his death yet.

Donations were received from the Pharmacy Board of New Zealand of copies of their October examination papers, and from the editor of the *Pharmaceutical Journal* of a copy of “The Discovery of Oxygen.”

Thanks were voted to the donors.

THE DRUGGISTS' EXAMINATION.

A report of the House Committee suggested a plan for the improvement of the Druggists' examination.

It was ordered that a copy of the recommendations should be forwarded to Mr. Turkington, by whom the question of the improvement of that examination had been first mooted.

MEDALS FOR CANDIDATES.

Mr. WM. HAYES moved, pursuant to notice—

That it is desirable to offer medals or prizes to candidates at the examination for the licence whose answering reaches a certain standard.

This proposal had been suggested to him by a letter which he received from Mr. R. S. Moore, a young licentiate of the Society in Belfast. Mr. Moore's letter stated that he was proposing to get up a fund for the founding of a gold medal to be given to the candidate at the Final examination who took the first place, and whose marks exceeded a certain standard. He asked for the aid of the Society in the project, which he said was being supported in Belfast, and suggested that an administrative committee of a representative character should be formed for the management of the prizes. He (Mr. Hayes) was of opinion that if the Council had funds available for the purpose these would be very well expended in providing gold, silver, and bronze medals and hooks for the best answerers at the final examination.

Mr. BEGGS said he seconded the motion with great pleasure. He thought the idea was an admirable one. Such prizes would incite the candidates to do something beyond merely attaining marks barely sufficient to pass.

Mr. HAYES: I should have mentioned that the proposal is to give these medals only once a year.

Mr. GRINDLEY: Should we not first decide whether we are to join in the scheme of these gentlemen in Belfast or to initiate a scheme under our own control? My idea is that we should not join with any outside body. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. HAYES: We might receive from them anything that they wish to offer.

Mr. BIGGS: I think it would be more dignified for the Society to do the thing itself, and have sole control.

The PRESIDENT: In England, medals and prizes have been founded by money left by deceased pharmacists. There would be no objection to a contribution from outside to a prize fund, so long as we have control.

Mr. GRINDLEY: That would not meet their views, for they want representation.

The PRESIDENT: I don't think the Council would give that. They have it already in this way—that we are their representatives.

Mr. MONTGOMERY said the objection to taking funds from outside sources was that the amount might vary. The prizes should be of permanent value.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said he did not see his way to appropriating the school funds to the establishment of general prizes.

Mr. GRINDLEY: Members of the Council have been thinking of establishing prizes for a considerable time.

The resolution was put, and agreed to.

Mr. HAYES said he would write to Mr. Moore, stating that the Council approved of the principle of having medals and prizes at the Licence examination, and that if the Society in Belfast with which Mr. Moore was connected would send a certain amount towards a prize fund, the Council would consider how the money could be best applied.

The PRESIDENT: Mr. Ferrall has gone back over twelve Licence examinations, and he has found that the average marks of the best man on those occasions was 241 $\frac{1}{2}$ out of a possible 300, and that the highest standard actually attained was 262 out of 300.

Some formal business concluded the proceedings.

Trade-Marks Applied for.

ANY person who has good grounds of objection to the registration of any of the following marks should *at once* communicate with Sir Reader Lack, Comptroller-General, at the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," December 25, 1895.)

"ODOOMO"; for chemical substances used for agricultural, horticultural, veterinary and sanitary purposes. By J. J. H. Smith, 10 Bridge Street, Newark, chemist. 191,123.

"MOLLI TOOKIT"; for a cough-mixture or patent medicine for human use. By S. T. Mitchell, 64 St. Mary's Road, Manningham, Bradford, traveller. 190,506.

"MOLEX"; for chemical substances for use in medicine and pharmacy. By F. W. Fletcher, Beauchamp Lodge, Enfield, manufacturing chemist. 191,344.

Applicant's signature; for all goods in class 44. By H. W. Bartley, 9 Castlegate, Penrith, mineral-water manufacturer. 191,681.

Applicant's signature and wording, on black-edged label; for preparations for the hair and toilet-purposes. By R. Stanton, 7 Station Parade, Kew Gardens, Surrey tichologist and hair-doctor. The essential particular is the copy of applicant's signature. 126,757.

"NIXIN"; for perfumery, toilet-articles, &c. By R. W. Harrison & Co., 48 Darwen Street, Blackburn, steam-packing manufacturers. 191,594.

"TA-RA-RA"; for silversmiths' soap, plate-powder, furniture, brass, and knife polishes. By J. A. Brookfield, 25 South-grove Road, Sheffield, manufacturing chemist. 191,394.

Medallion portrait of the Hungarian hero, Hunyadi Janos, and wording "Natural Aperient Water"; for a mineral water. Also the same device for natural aperient salts, being a medicinal preparation for human use. By Emily Saxebrner, trading as Andreas Saxebrner, 3 Andrassy Street, Budapest, Hungary, widow, proprietor of mineral water springs. 190,889. The essential particular is the medallion portrait.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," January 1, 1896.)

"SYRMOSCO"; for a medicine for human use. By W. H. Bell & Co., 25 North Street, Belfast, chemists. 190,150.

Figure of pyramid for glycerine, specially prepared for use in medicine. By Joseph Crosfield & Sons, Bank Quay, Warrington, soap manufacturers. 190,002.

"OZERINE"; for a medicine for human use, being a remedy for epilepsy. By J. W. Nicholl, 25 High Street, Belfast, pharmaceutical chemist. 191,378.

"NUNSACH," and combination of devices in a triangle; for an embrocation for human use. By W. Wood, 22 Gideon Road, Lavender Hill, Battersea, London, S.W., manufacturer. 190,673. The essential particular is the combination of devices.

"STIF-KURA," and figure of leg and arm; for an embrocation for human use. By S. Challoner, 237 Queen's Road, New Cross, London, S.E., manufacturing chemist. 190,304. The essential particular is the figure.

"PRUDENTIAL"; for all goods included in class 3. By N. J. Taylor, 47 Braydon Road, Stamford Hill, Middlesex, merchant. 190,848.

"OVIVO"; for a preparation for the hair and skin. By C. de Neuville, High Street, Woking, hairdresser, 191,309.

Marriages.

LEE—RENNIE.—On January 1, at Whitby Parish Church, J. Arthur R. Lee, pharmaceutical chemist, Guiseley, to Dorothy Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr. Thos. E. Rennie, Khyber House, Whitby.

ROBERTS—BARRETT.—On January 1, 1896, at the Friends' Meeting-house, Devonshire House, Bishopsgate, London, Weston Roberts, L.P.S.I., and chemist and druggist G.B., Enniscorthy, to Kate, youngest daughter of George Barritt, chemist and druggist, Croydon.

Deaths.

ARCHER.—The pharmaceutical world at Sheffield have lost a kind and genial member by the death of Mr. Albert Archer, which occurred on January 2, at the early age of 48. The deceased, who was a native of Sheffield, served his apprenticeship with Mr. Hill, at what is now the pharmacy of Mr. C. O. Morrison, in West Street. Some time after his apprenticeship had expired he succeeded Mr. Taylor in his business at Spring Vale, and he also opened a branch establishment at Woodhouse, a village near. His health giving way, he was ordered into the south, and, having purchased a business at Torquay, he went to reside there. Serious lung-affection, however, developed itself, and he died somewhat suddenly on the day named. Mr. Archer leaves a widow and family.

BAXTER.—On January 5, at his residence, 259 Great Homer Street, Liverpool, Mr. William Baxter, chemist and druggist. Aged 63 years.

HARDWICK.—The death has occurred very suddenly of Mr. John Edward Hardwick, chemist's assistant, employed by Mr. Gilbert, chemist and druggist, Bournemouth, and dispenser at the Convalescent Home. He was found lying dead on the floor of the dispensing room, with a glass by his side. It was proved that death was due to failure of the heart's action, due to weakness after an attack of influenza.

HUMPHRIES.—On January 16, Mr. Jacob Humphries, manufacturing chemist, of Low Moor and Bradford, at the early age of 36. Mr. Humphries settled at Low Moor about fifteen years ago, but subsequently removed to Bradford.

JEWELL.—On December 28, 1895, at Stamford, Mr. John Jewell, chemist and druggist. Aged 58.

MILES.—On December 17, Mr. George Miles, chemist and druggist, Pokesdown, Bournemouth. Aged 59.

WHITE.—At Penistone, on January 7, Mr. Luke Pearson White, chemist and druggist. Aged 74.

The Winter Session.

SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY.

MANCHESTER SECTION.

THE principal item at the meeting of this Section, held on Friday evening, January 3, was a paper on

SOME NEW METHODS OF TESTING INDIGO,

by Dr. B. W. GERLAND, who stated that none of the innumerable methods of testing indigo is absolutely reliable, a circumstance which was all the more surprising in view of the value of indigo as an article of commerce. He referred to some of the new methods, and favoured the nitro-berzel process. In the course of the discussion which followed, a good deal of diversity of opinion was manifested. Mr. RAWSON, of Bradford, who is recognised as one of the leading authorities in the country on indigo-testing, said he had come to the conclusion that the best method was oxidation with permanganate of potash. In the nitro-berzel process the high temperature destroyed some of the indigotine. The CHAIRMAN (Mr. G. E. Davis) also favoured the use of permanganate of potash, the action of which, he said, was constant and reliable. Dr. GERLAND admitted that it was so when the indigo was pure.

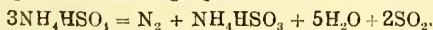
Mr. WILFRED IRWIN followed with a paper on "The Effect of Heat on the Illuminating power of Coal-gas, and its Relation to the Theory of Flame." He pointed out that luminosity is due to two different sets of reactions, and while one burner was more favourable to one set another might be more favourable to another set. The results he had obtained seemed to show that the argand burner is scarcely a fair method of estimating the commercial value of gas, owing to the excessive heat of the flame, which destroys some of the luminosity, and he suggested that a fairer method would be to take the average of the union jet and the slit burners which are in everyday use.

LONDON SECTION.

The meeting at Burlington House, on Monday evening, was small, and the programme light. Mr. B. E. R. Newlands presided, and called upon Mr. WATSON SMITH to read the first paper, which was chiefly upon the

EFFECT OF HEAT ON AMMONIA SALTS,

but was entitled "A Technological Study of Comparative Affinities in the Case of Certain Salts of Ammonia." It consisted of a record of experiments which did not pass the test-tube stage, but which were described with minute care as to quantity and detail. The following are a few of the facts elicited. When dry ammonium sulphate is heated, and steam passed through it, ammonia gas is evolved; if the steam is omitted, and dry air passed through the mass, ammonia-gas first comes off, then sulphur dioxide also, and there is a residue of ammonium bisulphate (NH_4HSO_4). The physical condition of the salt has much to do with the decomposition: the finer the powder the sooner does it begin to decompose. Thus, at 88°C . the evolution of ammonia was quite marked, and it was even observable at 60°C . Moreover, the same decomposition takes place in aqueous solutions of the salt below the boiling-point, for if a piece of wet red litmus-paper is held over such a solution the paper becomes blue long before the solution boils, and the spouting-up of the solution makes red spots on the paper, owing to the acidity of the solution, yet it is at the same time evolving ammonia. The experiments further showed that evolution of ammonia from the salt continues up to 300°C ., when sulphurous acid begins to accompany it, and continues until 450°C ., when free nitrogen is also evolved. His explanation of the reaction is that the evolution of ammonia leaves the salt as bisulphate, and this decomposes by heat according to the following equation:—



Bisulphite is actually found as a sublimate in the apparatus and tubes, if the reaction is stopped; but if the heat is continued it is dissociated into NH_3 and SO_2 .

The action of heat upon mixtures of ammonium chloride and bisulphite was also studied with a view to the possible

discovery of a process for making hydrochloric acid, the importance of this to the ammonia-soda industry being obvious. On heating the mixture hydrochloric acid was given off, and as soon as ammonium sulphate was re-formed in sufficient quantity ammonia came off, but stopped soon; then more hydrochloric acid, and so on—a delightful seesaw reaction which gave no hope of industrial application. Still, by employing about twenty equivalents of bisulphite to one equivalent of NH_4Cl , 95 per cent of the HCl in the latter was obtained, and a 2 dr. bottle of fuming hydrochloric acid so made was curious to behold. Chlorine gas was also prepared by heating a mixture of ammonium bisulphite, NH_4Cl , and MnO_2 , though only a 14 per cent. yield was thus obtained.

There was practically no discussion upon the paper. The CHAIRMAN said the evolution of ammonia from ammonium-sulphite solutions was well known, but Mr. Smith's observations were of great value. Mr. CROWDER said a paper on similar lines was published in the *Chemical News* twelve years ago. Mr. DAVID HOWARD asked Mr. Smith if he could tell in what condition ammonium sulphate existed in solution. The solution was always acid—at least to iron pipes—and he believed that chemists could never be sure about such chemicals, for the atoms were very like emperors, and conducted themselves in the same unseemly manner. (Laughter.) Mr. THORP also spoke briefly.

Mr. J. W. LOVIBOND read the next paper, which was on

THE COLOUR-EFFECT OF LIME-SALTS ON HOPS IN BREWING.

It is well known that water from chalk formations, rich in calcium bicarbonate, is not suitable for brewing pale ales, because the free alkali has a solvent power upon the extractive matter of the hops, and even upon the acrid resins. Consequently both colour and flavour are bad. Waters rich in gypsum are preferred by brewers, as they give better liquors. Mr. Lovibond is the inventor of the titrometer, and his paper was intended to show how that instrument could be used to determine whether a water is suitable for brewing or not, the estimation of the colour of the liquor being taken as the criterion. Incidentally, he submitted many examples of the result of alkaline carbonates upon the hop, the effect being graphically represented by curve diagrams. The paper was much appreciated by the brewers present, and the CHAIRMAN and Mr. HERON (local secretary) said so.

MIDLAND CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

THE first musical and social evening of this Association was held at the Exchange Rooms, Birmingham, on New Year's night, Mr. T. C. Clarke presiding. The arrangements were under the control of Mr. P. C. Arblaster, who provided a most successful and enjoyable entertainment, the following gentlemen taking part in it:—Messrs. Thompson, Frost, Williams, Phillips, Hunt, Martin, Wilson, and Weaver.

CAMBRIDGE PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

At the last meeting of this Association Mr. L. A. J. HUTCHIN proposed, and Mr. C. S. ADDISON seconded, that "This Association desires to express its loyalty to the Pharmaceutical Society, and looks to it for aid to enable the pharmacist to maintain the position to which his State-enforced education entitles him"; whereupon Mr. A. S. CAMPKIN moved as an amendment, and Mr. H. F. COOK seconded, that "The discussion should be postponed until a larger and more representative body of chemists could be got together." This was carried, and it was also agreed that invitations be issued to the pharmacists in the neighbouring counties.

To PUT DOWN PATENTS.—A company has been formed by Chicago druggists, with 2,000 shares of \$10 each, and known as the United States Pharmacal Company, to make and put up proprietaries for the shareholders. Only retail druggists are admitted, and each member may hold not more than five shares. It is chiefly household remedies that are aimed at.

Legal Reports.

PHARMACY ACTS CASES.

SALE OF WINSLOW'S SYRUP BY A GROCER.

AT the County Court, Rhyd, on January 3, before Judge Sir Horatio Lloyd, the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain sought to recover two penalties of 5*l*. each from Mr. Joseph Littler, grocer, of Prestatyn, near Rhyd, for having on two occasions sold a preparation known as Winslow's Soothing-syrup, which was found to contain poison, he not being a registered chemist and druggist.

The Society was represented by Mr. R. E. Vaughan-Williams, barrister. Defendant conducted his own case.

Counsel, in his opening statement, said the action was brought under the Pharmacy Act, 1868, by the Society, as the bottles of Winslow's Soothing-syrup purchased at the defendant's shop had been found, as might have been expected, to contain morphine, which was the most active principle of opium. In fact, the company which sold the preparation advertised it as containing morphine, but not so little as had been found in the samples referred to. By selling the poison defendant had rendered himself liable to a penalty of 5*l* for each offence.

Mr. T. Arthur Foulds, inquiry agent of the Pharmaceutical Society, said he was instructed by the Registrar of the Society to make purchases at the defendant's shop at Prestatyn. On October 26 last he visited the defendant's shop and asked for Winslow's Soothing-syrup. He purchased two bottles, and produced the wrappers on which were printed the words "This preparation contains, among other valuable ingredients, a small amount of morphine, and, in accordance with the Pharmacy Act, is hereby labelled poison." On November 20 he purchased a third bottle, and all were handed over to Mr. Moon, of the Pharmaceutical Society.

Mr. Harry Moon, clerk to the Registrar of the Pharmaceutical Society, proved receiving the three bottles of Winslow's Soothing-syrup, and handing them over to the analyst of the Society.

Mr. Ernest John Easter, F.I.C., and demonstrator of practical chemistry to the Pharmaceutical Society, said he analysed the contents of the three bottles. In the two first purchased he found 08 gr. of morphine each, and in the third bottle there was '09 gr. Morphine was the chief active constituent of opium, and was ten times as strong as that drug. The quantity in the bottle was sufficient to do damage if taken by an infant.

Defendant remarked: That would be if the whole bottle were taken. It was only intended to take a portion.

Witness replied that it would depend entirely on the age of the child, as children were very susceptible to opium.

His Honour: What quantity would be harmful to a child of one year?

Witness: Probably a whole bottleful would not do much harm; but to a child of less than one year a smaller quantity might prove harmful.

Defendant said he was not a chemist, but held a licence to sell patent medicines. He had not the slightest idea that he was doing anything wrong against the law.

Counsel stated that it had been held that the selling of a very small quantity of poison was sufficient to secure a penalty, whether it was mixed with other substances or sold alone.

Defendant admitted that he had committed a technical offence, and said common sense would tell the Judge that he would not knowingly run the risk of incurring such heavy penalties for the sake of a patty 1*d*. or 2*d*. profit.

His Honour said that he had had to look at cases of that sort before, and he was helpless, as the law laid it down that as soon as it was proved to him that a man who was not a registered chemist or druggist sold a poison or any preparation as scheduled by the Act, he had to impose the penalty against that person. He knew of hard cases where an assistant had sold a preparation after the master had believed that he had cleared it all from his stock, and the penalty had to be imposed. He had no power to reduce or remit penalties.

Counsel agreed with this view.

Defendant replied that he had seen a case at Mold where

the Pharmaceutical Society sued for a larger penalty, and only got 10*s*. He did not know whether the case was on all fours with his or not.

His Honour said it was not heard in the County Court, and was probably taken under a different section in the Police Court.

Defendant said the first intimation he had was in the shape of a letter; but, as he thought it was an attempt to extort money, he did not take any notice of it.

His Honour replied that the letter was from the Society's solicitors. It was necessary that the sale of poisons should be kept in the hands of qualified chemists and druggists, as incalculable mischief might arise through the sale of poisons which it might be impossible to trace to the seller.

Defendant said he did not know he was doing wrong, and thought it was hard he should have to pay such high penalties.

His Honour said that was a matter which would have to be left in the hands of the Society. He could not help himself, and would have to give judgment for plaintiffs.

Defendant again asked if there was any help for it.

His Honour: No; unless you refer it to the Council of the Society.

Counsel asked for judgment to be entered for the two penalties (10*l*.) and a certificate for counsel, together with witnesses' costs. He would meet the defendant by not asking for costs on the higher scale, although he was entitled to do so, seeing that the matter was one of great public interest.

His Honour then entered judgment for the plaintiff Society, with ordinary costs and a certificate for counsel.

Counsel further stated that the proceedings had been taken in order to put a stop to the practice, whether done innocently or otherwise.

Defendant thought the case might have been met by the Society warning him that he was doing wrong, or by taking proceedings in one case.

His Honour: I am afraid they know their own business better than I do.

Counsel added that the preparation was labelled "Poison," and people must know that they were liable to a penalty if they sold poison, unless they were registered chemists or druggists.

SALE OF LEEMING'S ESSENCE BY AN UNQUALIFIED SELLER.

AT the Rathfriland Petty Sessions, on January 3, David Wilson, Church Street, Rathfriland, was prosecuted for that he, on October 17 last, did sell, and retail, and dispense a poison—to wit, cantharides, contained in a bottle of Leeming's essence—to Sergeant Nelson, R.I.C., Rathfriland, contrary to the Pharmacy Act (Ireland), 1875, section 30, he not being a person properly qualified in that behalf according to law. In a second summons the defendant was charged with having kept open his shop for retailing and dispensing poisons, contrary to the same Act.

Mr. Galway, solicitor, Belfast, prosecuted on the part of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, and Mr. Crothers, solicitor, Rathfriland, defended.

Mr. Galway, in opening the case, said the defendant was a spirit-grocer, residing in Rathfriland. Sergeant Nelson went into his premises on the date in question, and seeing there exposed a substance called "Leeming's essence"—a veterinary preparation for blistering horses—he purchased a bottle of it. The bottle was sent to Professor Tichborne, of Dublin, for analysis, and that gentleman was present in court that day to prove that he found the essence contained cantharides—a scheduled poison under the Poisons Act. He asked that their Worships would impose the full penalty for keeping open shop, and another full penalty for actually selling the article.

Sergeant Nelson, in his evidence, deposed that he purchased the Leeming's essence from Mr. Wilson's assistant, a young man named Thomas Hanna. Mr. Wilson admitted that the police had cautioned him against selling these so-called patent medicines. He bought a second bottle from the defendant on October 17. Cross-examined, witness said he got his instructions from the Pharmaceutical Society. The bottle was not labelled "Poison." Defendant told him he did not think it contained poison.

Professor Tichborne swore that the essence contained tincture of cantharides. Witness was a specialist on cantharides.

To the Chairman : The reason cantharides was scheduled as a poison was because it was used some fifty years ago very extensively for criminal purposes.

Mr. Crothers then proposed to examine the defendant, but Mr. Galway remarked that a defendant in a criminal prosecution cannot give evidence.

The Chairman : Unless there is a special section in the Act enabling the defendant to be examined.

Mr. Galway : And there is no such section in this Act.

Mr. Crothers said that all he could then do was to make a statement on behalf of his client. Mr. Wilson was well known to most of the Magistrates on the Bench. He was one of the most respectable merchants in Rathfriland, and had done more for building up the markets and the incoming produce to Rathfriland than any other member of the community. They did not deny that the bottle was set up for sale. Mr. Wilson did not know the essence contained poison ; he used it principally for himself ; and there was only one other person who got it from him. He would not sell more than three or four bottles in twelve months ; and he intended not to get in another supply of the article when the present supply was exhausted. Mr. Wilson informed him that he had kept the article for a considerable time before there was such a person as a druggist in Rathfriland at all. When notice was served on Mr. Wilson he had poisonous drugs in his house for sale. He then disposed of all the articles that he knew contained poison. He was not aware that the essence in question contained poison. Under the circumstances he (Mr. Crothers) would ask their Worships to deal as leniently as possible with the defendant.

Mr. Galway, in reply, said the Magistrates had no power to reduce the penalties mentioned in the Act, and quoted the case of *McGahon v. Kelly* in support of his contention.

The Chairman, having read the section of the Act of Parliament, said it was perfectly clear that the Magistrates had no option but to impose the full penalty in each of the cases.

Dr. Heron said that, although it did not affect the case, it was, he thought, a great hardship on a man like Mr. Wilson that the persons who sold him these patent medicines did not inform him that they were scheduled as poisons.

The Chairman said that the Magistrates had nothing to do but to impose the full penalty of 5*l.* in each case, and order that one-third of the sum be paid to the person who had been the means of bringing the defendant to justice—Sergeant Nelson, he supposed. They would allow 1*l.* costs in each case to meet the expenses of the Pharmaceutical Society in connection with the prosecution and the costs of the court.

NOTICE TO LEAVE—CUSTOM OF THE SURGICAL-INSTRUMENT TRADE.

IN the City of London Court, on Monday, before Mr. Commissioner Kerr, Thomas Hill sued Messrs. Allen & Hanburys (Limited), Plough Court, Lombard Street, E.C., surgical-instrument makers, to recover the sum of 8*l.* as damages for having been, as he alleged, wrongfully dismissed from their service. One of plaintiff's fellow-workmen, Samuel Webster, who was discharged at the same time, claimed 9*l.* under similar circumstances, and both cases were taken together.

Mr. Greig appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Whateley for the defendants.

Mr. Greig said the plaintiffs were fitters in the defendants' service. They were both Sheffield men, and were engaged according to the customs of the trade at Sheffield, one of which was that all workmen should give or receive a month's notice when leaving the service. In November last, after the plaintiffs had been working for the defendants for some time, they received a week's notice to leave. They refused to accept it, and claimed a month's notice. The defendants' manager was not accustomed to the practice, and, after inquiry, he told them several days after that they could take a month's notice, but it would date from the time that the week's notice was given. They objected to that. The plaintiffs gave the manager some hints in regard to suggested alterations with reference to the way that the business was carried on, which, if adopted, would make it more profitable. The plaintiffs then understood that they were

to continue to work as usual. They were subsequently asked if they had found work elsewhere, and upon being told that they had not they were told that they would have to leave at the end of the month's notice.

Mr. Whateley said his answer was that, as the plaintiffs were piece-workers, they were not entitled to any notice at all. The longest notice given to men in the plaintiffs' position in London was a week. That the plaintiffs had had. When they complained, as a matter of grace the defendants said the plaintiffs could stop on for a month, but they were to consider themselves quite free in the meantime to leave whenever they liked.

Hill was called, and bore out his solicitor's statement. The universal custom at Sheffield was to give and take a month's notice. They worked under Sheffield rules while at the defendants' employment. The rules were stuck up in the shop. In cross-examination the witness said he did not believe there was any rule or custom so far as the London trade went.

Mr. Commissioner Kerr said if the witness had been sitting in that court for thirty-five years, as he (the learned Judge) had done, he would find out that there was really no custom as to notice. It differed in almost every district in London. Some people could insist on a month's notice, others a fortnight, others a week, and some none at all. There was, in short, no general custom. The inference of weekly payment was sometimes a weekly notice.

The other plaintiff, Webster, was called, and he said if they wanted to give notice in Sheffield they had to do so in writing.

Mr. Commissioner Kerr : I am glad to find that the Yorkshiremen have laid down a rule that I can understand. I wish Londoners would follow their example.

The witness added that since he had left the defendants he had been trying to get work from Messrs. S. Maw, Son & Thompson.

For the defence, Mr. Dodd, the defendants' manager, said that whatever might be the custom in Sheffield, the London rule was only to give workmen a week's notice in their trade. The custom about a month's notice was unheard of in London. He admitted in cross-examination that they had stuck up in their works a notice to the effect that the rules in force were those which applied to the Sheffield trade. But that only applied to ordinary workers, and not piece-workers such as the plaintiffs. The plaintiffs did not work under the Sheffield customs.

Mr. Commissioner Kerr said that would not do. They could not get over their own notice in their shop. He found for the plaintiffs in both cases, and allowed costs.

SPIRITUOUS HERB-BEER.

AT the Preston Police Court, on December 2, John Hamersley, was summoned before the Mayor for selling one pint of beer without having a retail licence.

The Inland Revenue authorities prosecuted, and evidence was given to the effect that on September 22 last the defendant, a dealer in herb-beer, sold a pint of it to an officer of the Inland Revenue, which, upon being analysed, was found to contain 4½ per cent. of alcohol. The analyst stated that the amount of alcohol was determined by the quantity of saccharine matter in the beer, and he admitted that it was possible for the defendant to have committed an offence without having any intention to defraud. The defendant, on being called, said the beer was made of horehound, dandelion, and burdock, and that there was only 2 lbs. of sugar to every 9 doz. bottles of beer. The Bench inflicted a fine of 2*l.* 10*s.* including costs, or in default 14 days' imprisonment.

PROSECUTION UNDER THE DENTISTS ACT.

ERNEST H. RICHARDS, Zingari Terrace, Gipsy Lane, Forest Gate, was summoned at West Ham Police Court, on January 8, for taking and using the title of dentist without being registered as such under the Dentists Act. Mr. Frederick George appeared for the complainant, Mr. G. R. Matland, a registered dentist, of Romford Road, Forest Gate ; Mr. Pettiver defended. On December 31 Mr. Matland, accompanied by a lad in his employ, went to the defendant's place at Gipsy Lane and asked to see the dentist. He was told the dentist was engaged, but he afterwards saw the defendant.

He told him his "teeth were shaky" and he wanted the assistance of a dentist, and the defendant, after examining his mouth, said he would do what was required for 10s. 6d. Mr. Matland said he would consider the matter, and, after he had had the boy's teeth looked at and received defendant's advice, Mr. Matland asked to have a cast of his mouth taken, and paid 2s. 6d. deposit. The defendant gave a receipt for the money, and also handed Mr. Matland a circular which read "Mr. Richards, late with Mr. Goodman, surgeon-dentist." Mr. Pettiver admitted that defendant was not registered as a dentist. He was a manufacturing dentist, and when persons called on him to have operations performed he took them to another dentist. Mr. Baggallay said the Act was designed to protect the public as well as dental practitioners. The defendant had clearly by his documents represented himself to be a surgeon-dentist, but he was admittedly not registered. He would be fined 5l. and 1l. 10s. costs.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

TINCTURE OF RHUBARB.

AT Wakefield County Petty Sessions, Walter Batty, grocer, Warmfield, was summoned for selling adulterated tincture of rhubarb. Two ounces were purchased at defendant's shop for 6d. Mr. Allen, of Sheffield, certified that the tincture contained only two-fifths of the quantity of alcohol specified in the British Pharmacopoeia, while it was altogether destitute of saffron. The defence was that a small bottle of the drug was purchased by the defendant in November, 1893, for 2s., and defendant sold it in exactly the same state as he received it. The Bench thought that adulteration had taken place, and that it was, in their judgment, impossible for the adulteration to have arisen in any other way than by the deliberate addition of water. They imposed a fine of 1l. and 1l. 12s. 6d. costs.

New Companies and Company News.

J. F. CRADDOCK & Co. (LIMITED).—Capital 5,000l., divided into 500 7½ preference and 500 ordinary shares of 5l. each. Objects: To carry on the business of manufacturers of and dealers in sealing-wax, inks, gums, ropes, cords, twines, and stationers' and druggists' sundries. Registered without articles of association.

EDGAR DOW (LIMITED).—Capital 5,000l., in 1l. shares. Objects: To acquire, take over as a going concern and carry on the business of a mineral, aërated and artificial water manufacturer carried on by Edgar Dow, at 19 and 21 Baker Street, Liverpool, and to enter into an agreement with the said vendor for the purpose. The regulations of Table "A" mainly apply.

PURDOM & STOKES (LIMITED).—Capital 15,000l., in 5l. shares. Objects: To enter into an agreement with Robert Purdom, manufacturing optician, of 126 Great Tindal Street, Birmingham, and to carry on business as manufacturing opticians, dealers in optical glasses and other optical goods, and spectacle-frame makers. The first directors are Robert Purdom (chairman and managing director) and Thomas Finney.

H. HARRIS, SONS & Co. (LIMITED).—Capital 12,000l., in 300 preference shares of 10l. each, and 3,600 ordinary shares of 2l. 10s. each. Objects: To take over as a going concern and carry on the business of a manufacturer of blacklead, grating-polishes, washing-powders, dry soaps, soap extracts, blues, borax, starch gloss, &c., carried on by H. Harris as "H. Harris, Sons & Co." at Tower Works, Birmingham, and to enter into an agreement for the purpose. The first directors (to number not fewer than three nor more than five) are Henry Harris (after allotment), Sharrard Harris, and Joseph F. Craddock. Qualification, 10 shares. Remuneration, as the company may decide. George Turley, wholesale druggist, of 59 Edgbaston Street, Birmingham, is one of the signatories. Registered office 56 Upper Highgate Street, Birmingham.

BRITISH MEDICINAL CAPSULES COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 1,500l., in 1l. shares. Objects: To acquire and carry on the business of manufacturers of gelatine capsules, suspensory bandages, and indiarubber goods carried on by Frances E. Lewin, at 37 Theobald's Road, Holborn, as "The British Medicinal Capsules Company," and at 10 Wharf Road, Pritchards Road, Hackney Road, Bethnal Green, as "The British Surgical Rubber Company," and to enter into an agreement with the said vendor and Maurice Lewin, her husband. The first subscribers (each with one share) are:—M. Lewin, manager, and Mrs. M. Lewin, 37 Theobald's Road, W.C.; H. Marcussen, 144 Kennington Park Road, S.E., manager; W. Latte, 25 Red Lion Street, W.C., frame maker; W. Williams, 65 Rotherfield Street, Islington, N., clerk; W. Perarach, 53 Clapham Road, S.W., clerk; W. Lewis, 36 Malden Road, N.W., clerk. The regulations of Table "A" mainly apply.

IMPERIAL EAU DE COLOGNE (LIMITED).—Capital 4,500l., in 1l. shares. Objects: To adopt an agreement dated December 16 between Ebenezer Cox of the one part, and Alexander Lyon (for the company) of the other part, and to carry on the manufacture and sale of eau de Cologne, lavender-water, and all kinds of perfumes, toilet and proprietary articles, patent medicines, insect-powders, embrocations, and all articles manufactured or sold by chemists and druggists. The first subscribers (each with one share) are:—A. Lyon, 22 South Street, S.W., gentleman; P. E. Metzner, 61 and 62 Chancery Lane, W.C., chartered accountant; W. J. Gadsden, 19 Middle Lane, Crouch End, clerk; Col. W. P. Partington, 123 High Holborn, W.C.; E. Cox, 21 Harvard Road, Gunnersbury, W., gentleman; H. V. Troup, 1 Gore Street, S.W., gentleman; E. G. Gadsden, 22 Grove House Road, Hornsey, traveller. The first directors (to number not fewer than three nor more than five) are Louis Campbell-Johnston, Arthur J. Beaumont, and Spencer H. W. Heron Maxwell. Qualification, 100l. Remuneration, as the company may decide.

J. S. FRY & SONS (LIMITED).—Capital 1,000,000l., divided into 4,000 6l. per cent. cumulative preference and 6,000 ordinary shares of 100l. each. Objects: To acquire, take over as a going concern and carry on the business of chocolate and cocoa manufacturers heretofore carried on at Bristol, London, Sydney and elsewhere, under the style or firm of "J. S. Fry & Sons," and for the purpose of such acquisition to enter into an agreement with Joseph S. Fry and Francis J. Fry, both of Union Street, Bristol. These two gentlemen are to have the sole control of the business of the company as governing directors, and each may hold office until he dies, resigns, or ceases to hold 1,000 shares allotted to him as fully paid. They may fix their own remuneration, and may appoint other directors. Qualification of ordinary directors, 5,000l. Remuneration as determined either by the governing directors or by the company.

D. & W. GIBBS (LIMITED).—Capital 140,000l., in 9,200 5l. per cent. cumulative preference and 4,800 ordinary shares of 10l. each. Objects: To acquire the business of soap manufacturers carried on at the City Soapworks, 16 Finsbury Circus, E.C., and the Abbey Chemical-works, Stratford, Essex, as "D. & W. Gibbs," and to carry on business as manufacturers of and contractors for hard, fancy and soft soaps, antifouling soap, &c., oil refiners and merchants, glycerine-distillers, and makers of creosote, disinfectants, and boiler-fluid. The first directors (to number not fewer than three nor more than seven) are David A. Gibbs, William R. Gibbs (senior directors, qualification 5,000l.), William S. Collins, David C. Gibbs (senior managing directors, qualification 4,000l.), Frederick L. A. Gibbs, and Kenneth Y. Gibbs, (junior managing directors, qualification 2,000l.). Remuneration of managing directors, 150l. each per annum; of others as the company may determine.

LIVERPOOL MEDICAL CLUB (LIMITED).—Capital 1,000l., in 2l. shares. Objects: To establish, maintain and conduct a club for members of the medical profession, particularly for those practising in Liverpool, to promote honourable practice, to repress malpractice, and to discuss all questions of professional usage or courtesy between or amongst members of the medical profession. None but duly qualified and registered physicians or surgeons can become members. The first directors (to number fifteen, of whom ten at least

must be general medical practitioners) are Drs. E. Adam, F. E. Ackerley, C. L. Anderson, E. Barnes, Dubourg, Duffus, Dunn, J. Edwards, T. Gordon, T. G. Carry, Peck, R. J. Richardson, J. J. Tisdall, T. Walby, and A. E. Williams, all of Liverpool and its immediate neighbourhood.

MEDICAL AND CLERICAL DEFENCE INSURANCE AND INVESTMENT SOCIETY (LIMITED).—Capital 10,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To protect, support and safeguard the character and financial interests of legally qualified medical practitioners and other approved persons, and to advise and defend insurers with the society when attacked, and issue policies of insurance on general terms (not being policies of insurance upon human life). The first subscriber is Harry Brennier, chemist, of 4 Seymour Street, Euston Square, N.W., with one share. The subscribers are to determine the number, qualification and term of office of the first directors, of whom Geo. B. Read, of Mentmore, Newmarket, physician, is one. Registered office, 1 Oakley Street, King's Road, S.W.

NEW CHEMICAL WORKS AT RUNCORN.—The new Castner-Kellner Chemical Company are erecting works at Weston Point, Runcorn. The site, for which negotiations have been long in progress, consists of more than twenty acres. The construction of the manufactory will provide employment for numerous artisans, and when it is finished many workmen will be engaged. It is stated that the machinery will be supplied by Mather & Platt (Limited), of Manchester, the principal of that firm being a director of the new company. The plant it is intended to erect by successive electrical installations, each complete in itself, up to 4,000-horse power, the estimated cost of which is 130,000*l.* The company will manufacture caustic alkali and bleaching powder, by means of the electrolytic process.

Indian News.

(From our Correspondents.)

A WEDDING.—On November 28 representative pharmacy gathered in force at St. Thomas's Cathedral, Bombay, to "witness the nuptials" (as native invitees have it) of Mr. J. G. Prebble, Messrs. Horner & Son's Indian representative, to Miss Fanny Tunbridge. The bride, who had just arrived from England, looked all that a bride should, and the happy couple received the warmest congratulations from their friends. A reception followed at the Esplanade Hotel, after which Mr. and Mrs. Prebble left for a honeymoon on the Hills.

DRUG-ADULTERATION.—At a meeting of the Bombay Municipal Corporation on Monday, December 9, a proposal was brought forward to legislate in the matter of drug-adulteration, regarding which the law is at present silent in Bombay. Hitherto the only check on such practices is the fact that the Customs, under the Merchandise Marks Act, prohibit the importation of any drugs which do not come up to the standard stated on the label, but native dealers can, and constantly do, "fake" such preparations after importation. It was stated at the meeting that many drugs sold in Bombay are not what they ought to be, those sold in many dispensaries being absolutely inert. One gentleman stated that he had obtained solution of cocaine from an establishment in this city, which had absolutely no anaesthetic effect when applied to the nostril. This statement was considered quite sufficient by the all-wise corporators to prove that all drugs were more or less adulterated, and a committee was at once formed to prevent the nasal mucous membranes of individual corporators being subjected to such disrespect in future. As a matter of fact, however, adulteration is very rife here, and it is high time some steps were taken. The provisions made in Calcutta were considered insufficient for proper prevention of such fraud, the only steps taken being to order the destruction of all drugs considered doubtful by the inspector, but inflicting no penalty, nor, indeed, making any provision for wilful adulteration.

THE STERILISATION OF DRUGS.—At a meeting of the

Agri-Horticultural Society of Icia, held at Metcalfe Hall, Calcutta, on December 6, Mr. J. Cleghorn, of the Public Works Department read an interesting paper on a new method for preserving organic products and protecting them from insect attacks. According to Mr. Cleghorn, the new preservative, which is known as the "Weevil Stifler," is likely to be of considerable value in preserving drugs from insect attacks. Mr. Cleghorn instanced the case of a consignment of 175 bales of cassia fistula recently sent from Calcutta to London, of which five were sterilised. When sold in London, the sterilised pods realised 70 per cent. more than the untreated ones. Cassia fistula pods are notoriously easily damaged in their immature state if subjected to ordinary heat, more so, in fact, than any other known vegetable product. Yet the "Stifler" treatment succeeded in destroying all germs and eggs contained in the fresh bean without causing harm to the drug. Cassia fistula is at present exported in very small quantities from India, as consignments cannot be made to reach London without becoming weevil-damaged during the voyage. The "Stifler," it seems, can be applied to all vegetable products. Specimens of such products treated six months ago were exhibited by the author, and found to be in a perfect state of preservation. There is an impression among drug-exporters in India that raw drugs are benefited rather than injured by the attacks of grubs, as grubs live only on albumen, starch, &c., which are better out of the way in dispensing. Some drugs, such as ginger, are much damaged by insects and putrefaction during the period required for maturing. The amount of damage can be estimated by the difference in the selling price of the green and the dried drug. Green ginger root, for instance, can be had for one anna a seer in India at the beginning of the season, and day by day as the season advances the price increases, until in about four months' time what remains of the stock is considered mature and safe, and fetches twenty-four times the original price. Deleterious fermentation Mr. Cleghorn described as a process in which a powerful ferment promotes putrefaction of the tissues; beneficial fermentation, as a mild ferment necessary for the maturing and the final preservation of tissues. The "Weevil Stifler," it seems, prevents only the deleterious fermentation. During the past two years the stifling process has been successfully worked on cigars and cigarettes, and the process can be applied to articles such as opium, orange peel, chiretta, barks, roots, juices, wheat, rice and other seed grains, museum specimens and office samples, books, records, tapestry, &c. The stifling apparatus consists of a big zinc box divided into two compartments of 10 cubic feet capacity each, with an annular space on the bottom and sides and raised on supports a convenient height from the ground. At diagonally opposite corners there are apertures in the outside compartment through either of which water is poured until a depth of about 2 inches is registered. To the caps which close these apertures thermometers are attached for the purpose of noting the temperature. There are two closely-fitting lids to each compartment, both resting on felt linings, with a space of about 8 inches between the upper and lower lids. This is to keep the heat uniform and prevent the upper tiers of boxes from being exposed to a different temperature from those below. Over all two covers are placed, one of gunny and a blanket. The articles to be treated are arranged in compartments, tier upon tier, with battens between to allow of the stifling-heat being equally distributed all round each box. When the compartments are full, the zinc covers, gunny, and blankets, are put on, and three ordinary kerosene oil-stoves lighted underneath. In about three or four hours the thermometers should read 138° F., when one of the three stoves is withdrawn, and the remaining two reduced in power sufficient to keep the heated vapour in the annular space steady at 138° F. for five hours, after which the remaining stoves are removed, and the apparatus allowed to cool down to normal undisturbed. If this gradual cooling-down is not allowed, vapours from the goods will condense and form on the inside of boxes at points where their outsides have met with a sudden fall in temperature, and this might cause slight mildew in time, but even if this mildew does form there is no miasma, and in time it disappears. Besides, if goods are allowed gradually to cool down in the apparatus, vapours will be reabsorbed evenly by the goods throughout their bulk, much to their benefit. For the above reason goods cannot with advantage be dried by the process.

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MUTUAL INSURANCE AMONG PHARMACISTS.

We had prepared a few platitudes on the subject which figures at the head of this article; but while these were in hand we received from our Paris correspondent the appended

interesting account of the actual experiment in this direction which has been made in France. As the record of such an experience seems of much more value than any theoretical ideas on the subject could be, we gladly substitute this narrative for our own comments, and leave it to tell its own story.

In order to get exact information, our correspondent says he first called on M. A. Petit, the genial President of the General Association of French Pharmacists. M. Petit was busy writing in the little entresol above his pharmacy in the Rue Favart, Paris. Looking up from the table heaped with pharmaceutical periodicals, pamphlets, and papers, M. Petit remarked, "Yes, I saw an abridged report of the Birmingham case, but let me just glance at the *C. & D.* article and see the exact verdict. Dear me, 2,800*l.* damages! Why that makes 70,000*f.*, does it not? No, thank goodness, our Society has had no such expense as that to meet so far." "Does your Association insure all its members, M. Petit?" "Not exactly; but we have, in connection with the Association, a Mutual Assurance Society against accidents. This has now existed for about six years, and it is found to be an excellent and very practical idea. We started with comparatively few members, at the end of 1893 we numbered 160, and last year we had increased to 203." "Did this class of assurance previously exist?" "Yes; some of the assurance companies provided against such risks, and as a good many pharmacists had already taken out policies they could not of course join us till these had lapsed. This fact alone should assure future increase in our numbers. You understand that the great point in these matters, if one wants an effectual assurance at a low premium, is to have a large number of members, for the more numerous the adherents the lower the individual subscription." "Provided accidents are few?" "They are not so numerous after all. Up to 1894 we had had none whatever, and our members merely paid their money to the reserve fund. Then came an accident, which you will find fully reported here," and M. Petit produced the annual report of his Association.

The case referred to is the following: A widow sent her child for a seidlitz powder ("sel de seidlitz"), but the little messenger returned with salt of sorrel ("sel d'oseille"). Whether this was by error on the part of the child or the pharmacist is not clear. There is a remote similarity in the names in French. However this may be, the mother died from the effects of the powder, and the Court, disbelieving the pharmacist's assertion that he delivered the article asked for, found him guilty. There were four penniless orphans, and he was sentenced to pay 6*l.* per annum to each child till it came of age. The legal expenses and annuities made a total expense of 262*l.*; the latter being commuted for a lump sum by arrangement with an insurance company. The society numbers 203 members, but, as will be seen below, these represent 285 "heads," or equal parts. "Thus the loss over this affair," continued M. Petit, "came to a trifle under 1*l.* per head. But in the hope of being some years without such another accident, we decided to pay back the sum into our reserve in three annual instalments. So last year we only made a call of 7*f.* a head, plus the usual 5*f.* for the reserve fund—total 12*f.*, say 10*s.* a head. Of course we had also to pay the same sum last year (1895), as well as for the current year, to wipe off the deficit from our reserve fund. A glance over our statistics will explain my meaning. If your English society, with its large membership, would take up the matter vigorously, I believe a couple of shillings a year would suffice—I mean, of course, if you keep to our limit of 400*l.*," concluded M. Petit, as he conducted the *C. & D.* man to the entrance with an affable "Bonsoir."

A summary of the statutes of this "Mutual Assurance Society against Pharmaceutical Accidents," founded under the patronage of the General Association of French Pharmacists, may have some interest. First, it may be mentioned that a sum of 13,000*f.*, as a nucleus of capital, was subscribed by about forty gentlemen. Amongst their names are some of the big French drug and speciality firms, such as Chassaigne, Chanteaud, and the Pharmacie Centrale de France, as well as many individual well-known pharmacists. The President and officers of the Society are the same as those of the General Association, of which it is an off-shoot, and its offices are at M. Petit's pharmacy, 8 rue Favart, Paris. The Society guarantees its members against pecuniary loss arising from accidents caused to persons (animals are excluded) through errors committed in the exercise of their profession, either by the pharmacist himself or by his assistants or apprentices. Its scope is limited to retail pharmacies in France and Algeria, of which the proprietors are already members of the General Association. Those firms who do a wholesale as well as a retail trade are only assured against accidents in the latter branch. The Society is formed for ten years; consequently all policies, whether taken out at its formation or in later years, terminate at same date. The policy is cancelled without compensation—(1) by the holder retiring from business; (2) by his death (the widow or heirs are covered by the assurance, however, for twelve months after); (3) by non-payment of premiums.

After an accident, the Society itself reserves the right to cancel the policy of a member, should such a step be considered desirable.

In case of accident, the pharmacist must advise the President within twenty-four hours of the news being received, giving the name of the victim and all details. All legal proceedings are left to the Society, and no compromise must be agreed to without its approval. In case of annuities being awarded by a court of justice, the Society is liable, always provided that the total sum paid out for one accident—even if fatal to several persons at once—shall not exceed 10,000*f.* (say 400*l.*).

The entrance fee is 20*f.* At the end of each year the expenses (office expenses, claims paid, &c.) are totalised, and the sum equally divided among the whole of the Society's members at so much per capital. To establish a just proportion between the premiums and the risks, this division is established as follows:—A pharmacist without assistants, or with one assistant, counts as one "head"; with two assistants, as two "heads"; with three assistants, as three "heads"; with more than three assistants, as four "heads." In addition to his quota of the annual expenses, allotted on the above system, each member pays a fixed sum of 5*f.* annually to the reserve fund. When this fund is deemed sufficient the annual payment may be suspended temporarily or entirely suppressed by decision taken at the general meeting of the Society. This general assembly is held each year (usually at the same time and place as the annual meeting of the General Association of French Pharmacists).

Gathering from the pamphlet handed to him by M. Petit that the Compagnie Générale d'Assurances contre les Accidents, 56 rue St.-Lazare, insures those who do not come within the scope of the Mutual Society above referred to, our representative next called at the office of that establishment near the Trinity Church. The director of the company in question said in a vague way that they had done this class of business for "about ten years or so," and had "as many as 200 policies out." They had, however, never had to pay a claim as far as his memory served. Coming to the question of terms, he became more communi-

cative. "We guarantee up to 800% for errors in dispensing," said he, "and our rate is always 2 per 1,000 (one-fifth of 1 per cent.). So for an assurance up to 10,000f. a pharmacist pays 20f. premium per annum. Those pharmacists who have more than three assistants pay 1f. per 1,000 extra for each assistant. This form of policy will give you the exact conditions," he added, handing our representative a printed sheet headed, "Police spéciale à la responsabilité civile," which ran as follows:—

(1) The company guarantees the pharmacist against the financial results of accidents caused to persons by errors in dispensing, either on the part of his assistants or himself. (2) The company is liable for the damages awarded to the victims or their heirs, up to the amount named in the policy. (3) The policy is for ten years, unless otherwise stipulated. It continues for a second term of like extent unless notice is given six months before the expiration of the policy. In case of sale of the pharmacy or withdrawal from business, the policy will be cancelled and one annual premium paid as indemnity, unless the new proprietor takes up the assurance. (4) Premiums are payable in advance. (5) The pharmacist to advise the Society within 48 hours of the claim for damages being made, otherwise his right of compensation is forfeited. (6) All transactions with the prosecuting party to be carried out by the company direct. If the pharmacist compromises with the prosecutor direct, &c., without advising the company, the latter is discharged of all responsibility. The company defends judicial action in the pharmacists' name, in virtue of a power of attorney from him. The pharmacist must forward to the company immediately after receipt, all letters, summonses, and legal documents which may be served on him. (7) Indemnities are payable by the company within one month of the date of conviction or compromise. (8) All damages to be claimed within six months of the accident. (9) The company is not chargeable with fines, which are a legal punishment and not to be confounded with damages. (10) Any question or dispute between the pharmacist and the company to be tried at Paris.

"What does that last article (No. 10) mean?"—"Well, the bulk of our clients are in the provinces, and under the French law a case has to be tried in the courts of the district where the facts took place, or the debt was incurred. It would be expensive for us to have to travel all over France to contest cases, so we put that condition on our policies, as Paris tradesmen put on their invoices 'Payable at Paris,' to avoid similar annoyances."

"Are you the only company that does this class of business?"—"I fancy not. But here is something else which is quite a speciality of ours. 'Assurance of Pharmacists against the depreciation in value' of their business through such errors. The premium for that class of assurance is 2 per 1,000 also. The conditions you will see on the policy."

POLICY OF ASSURANCE AGAINST THE DEPRECIATION IN VALUE OF PHARMACIES (SUMMARISED).

(1) The present contract guarantees the pharmacist against the depreciation which may be caused to his business in case of accidents to persons through dispensing-errors made by him or by his assistants. (2) The guarantee is limited to the amount of the sum assured. This sum not to exceed half the approximate value of the pharmacy at the moment of assurance, nor to be more than 10,000f. (say 400%). (3) The sum assured will be paid in full if there is a conviction, and if the error has caused death. If, on the contrary, the accident has not been mortal, only one half of the sum will be paid. (4) In case of a fatal accident, which, though a conviction has not resulted, has caused an appreciable diminution in the value of the business, the Company to make good this depreciation, which shall not exceed the quarter of the total sum assured. In case of a non-mortal accident, not followed either by prosecution or conviction, no indemnity will be paid. (5) The pharmacist to supply all necessary data to the Company to enable them to fix the

exact depreciation. (6) The Company to be informed of conviction within a week, otherwise no compensation will be given for depreciation. (7) The policy may be cancelled by the Company after conviction of the holder. (8) (Same as article 3 of the first policy given.) (9) (Same as article 4 of the first policy given.) (10) Indemnities payable by the Company within one month of the definite verdict of conviction, or of the fatal accident, as specified in paragraph 4. (11) All claims relative to payment of indemnities are limited to within six months of date of accident. After these six months the Company's responsibility ceases. (12) (Same as article 10 of first policy given).

"And how do you assess the value of the business in these cases?"

"We accept the pharmacist's own figures when making out the policy, but we reserve our right, before any claim is paid, of employing a professional valuer to fix the exact amount the business is worth at the time the accident occurs."

ONE MAN, ONE PHARMACY.

THE limitation of the plurality of pharmacies which is the natural condition of things on the Continent is an ideal condition of things for this country which we may never see, but we are glad to note that the Pharmaceutical Society, through its President, has spoken firmly in regard to the management of branch pharmacies. It is notorious that there are a large number of such establishments throughout Great Britain managed by unqualified assistants, and, although we rarely hear of the assistants being brought into court for selling poisons, we believe that the payment of penalties in a quiet way has not been infrequent during the past twelve months. Probably the greatest impediment to the progress of pharmacy since 1868 has been the persistence with which the older generation of official pharmacists have upheld the principle of "personal qualification of the owner of the pharmacy," and inferentially of the seller of poisons. It is under the shelter of that principle that branch-shops have grown and unqualified assistants have flourished, and it was mainly responsible for depreciating the value of the statutory qualification until the law courts insisted on giving to the pharmacist's certificate its true value. These assertions require no proving. Until about five years ago, when Mr. Justice Hawkins intervened, most branches were managed by sober, middle-aged assistants, who were good workmen, but had not got the hall-mark. They had dropped into these soft places, where the remuneration was better than in posts directly under a principal, got a marriage certificate in time, and in domestic experience let the "Minor" one severely alone. Naturally no employer would exchange such a sure man for a raw youth with half-a-dozen years' experience and the Minor certificate. So the youth was compelled to take his 40f. a year indoors, or open a pharmacy in some fairly-stocked neighbourhood, and help by his competition to herald the advance of the cutter. There is little doubt that the commercialism which is now sapping the higher aims of pharmacy, and reducing the craft to the huckster's level, is entirely indigenous to it. Chemists and druggists themselves have taught company-promoters the trick of multiplying shops, for there is not a large town in Great Britain where we cannot find from two to two dozen pharmacies owned by one man, and, as already stated, there has been no sufficient inducement until recently to put qualified men in charge of the branches. There are, and have always been, honourable exceptions; but the evil to the public and, not less, to the practitioners of pharmacy has been incalculable. Indeed, it seems almost too late to

cry "Wolf! Wolf!" now that the animal has got inside the door. Mr. Carteighe spoke deliberately and strongly about the matter at the Pharmaceutical Council on Wednesday, appealing to local secretaries to advise their erring friends to mend their ways; but the fact should not be overlooked that the powers of the Pharmacy Act are by no means extensive, and do not affect the qualified owners of the branches. The Society can only make it awkward for them by prosecuting their unqualified assistants when they sell poisons. It is matter for consideration whether in any amendment of the Act further powers should not be sought, as was contemplated in 1884, so that the personal supervision of the proprietor should be made essential. At any rate, the present declaration is a harbinger of reform which, if it is not heartily welcomed by the trade, will at least be of service to it; and, though it is no business of ours to advise the Pharmaceutical Society how to manage its affairs, we think that every local secretary should be supplied with sufficient reprints of the President's speech, and a special circular, to distribute to all drug-dealers in their districts. This will make a wholesome lesson, and will save local secretaries from their "friends."

"REMARKABLE SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY."

WE have before remarked upon the somewhat hysterical manner in which the Vienna correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* treats scientific matters. His latest despatch in this department is the following telegram, dated last Sunday evening:—

A sensational discovery, which, if the reports are confirmed, is likely to be attended by important consequences for physical and medical science, is spoken of in scientific circles here. A new conductor of light has been discovered by Professor Röntgen, the well-known physicist at the Würzburg University. So far his experiments have resulted in the discovery that light penetrates wood and the flesh of men and animals, without, however, penetrating bones and metals. The professor succeeded in photographing metal weights placed in a shut-up wooden case. The photograph sent to Vienna shows only the weights, but nothing of the case. Another photograph of a man's hand shows only the bones, while the flesh remains invisible. Professor Röntgen's experiments are conducted in the following way:—He takes a so-called Crooke's pipe—viz., a well-pumped-out glass pipe, with an induction current going through it—and by means of the rays which that pipe is emitting he photographs on ordinary photograph plates. In contrast with the ordinary rays of light, those rays penetrate wooden and organic matter and other opaque substances, just by the same way as the ordinary rays of light penetrate glass. Experiments were also made in photographing hidden metals with the apparatus shut, and produced equal success. The rays penetrated not only the wooden case containing the metals, but also the cover placed before the plate of the apparatus. The scientific world here is much agitated by the discovery, which it is believed will be of far-reaching importance for many branches of knowledge. Already in its present stage it will be an excellent expedient for surgeons, particularly in cases of complicated fractures of limbs, in searching for the bullets of the wounded, &c. The photo will show not only an exact picture of a fracture, or the situation of a bullet, but spare the patient much painful manual probing with the sound.

The Crooke's pipe referred to is apparently one of Mr. William Crookes's for producing phosphorescence *in vacuo*. There is no mystery about that, but we learn for the first time that wood and flesh have become invisible in that light. We have stood in Mr. Crookes's own laboratory lighted by the glow of his phosphorescence tubes, and Mr. Crookes was by no means a skeleton, as the "remarkable scientific discovery" would lead us to expect. We earnestly hope, however, that Professor Röntgen has done as the *D. C.*'s

Vienna correspondent states, for now we shall be able to see through the latter gentleman. Later particulars state that the discovery has been made by Professor Röntgen while experimenting in the dark with a Crookes' phosphorescence tube. At the time he had some sensitised photographic paper accidentally lying about, and on this next day he noticed several lines for which he could not account. He therefore continued his experiments and found that not only may a camera be dispensed with, but that the image from the light rays of the Crookes' tubes is not obtained if it has to pass through lenses. He asserts that the phosphorescent rays do not travel in waves, but in a direct line. The first photograph of a human hand, showing only the bones and the rings on the fingers, was obtained by the Professor placing his own hand on the wooden case with the prepared paper, and allowing the rays from the Crookes' tube to fall directly upon it. Boltzmann, Professor of Physics at Vienna University, declares that the discovery of this "new light" will form an epoch in the history of science. He says that there are still certain obscure points that require clearing up.

B.P. SUPPOSITORIES.

We have asked the opinions of a few leading pharmacists regarding the doubtful point about cocoa-butter suppositories which was mentioned in our "dispensing notes" last week, and their replies are now printed in that section. It will be seen from these that the whole of the writers indicate the necessity for the Pharmacopœia directions being brought into line with trade custom, and instead of making the mass for 12 suppositories weigh 180 gr., it should be increased in weight by the addition of sufficient cocoa-butter to fill each of twelve 15-gr. moulds. As Mr. Martindale points out this is the principle which the Pharmacopœia committee went upon in formulating glycerine suppositories for the "Additions," and it only required the present expression of opinion to get the anomaly in cocoa-butter suppositories considered and remedied. A maker of suppository-moulds informs us that the holes are made to contain 15 gr. of pure cocoa-butter.

FAILURES IN 1895.

We learn from the statistics compiled by Mr. Richard Seyd that the total number of failures in the United Kingdom during 1895 was 9,458 (5,115 bankruptcies, 3,881 deeds of arrangement, and 462 Scotch trust-deeds). In addition there were 1,026 limited companies wound up, this occurring in only 135 cases "for purposes of reconstruction." The bankruptcies and deeds of arrangement figures show a satisfactory decline when compared with the previous three years. The totals for 1892, 1893, and 1894 were respectively 9,609, 10,658, and 10,507 respectively. The drug-trade does not quite share in the general improvement. There were 8 failures of wholesale druggists in 1894, and the same number in 1895, but while only 50 retail chemists failed in 1894, 60 were reported in 1895. Of these 24 were bankrupts and 36 filed deeds of arrangement. Twenty-nine wholesale draysalters failed in 1894, and only 19 in 1895. In the aerated-water trade there were 32 failures in 1895, against 26 in 1894. Among surgeons, physicians, and dentists the totals were 37 in 1894, and 35 in 1895. The drapery and the building trades show the best results on the year, but the improvement is mainly accounted for among the wholesale traders.

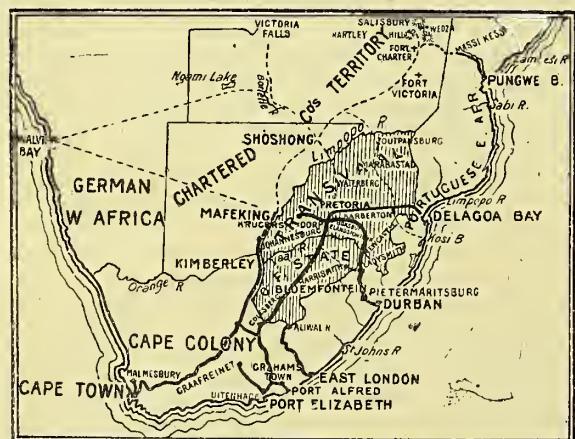
"ZUCKERIN" OR "SACCHARIN."—The proprietary right in the word "Saccharin" in Germany is claimed by the firm of Fahlberg. The other German manufacturer of the sweetener, Dr. von Heyden, now calls his product by the effective, if unbeautiful, trade-name of "Zuckerin" (Sugarine).

Pharmacy in Johannesburg.

"HALARMIN' war noose from Joe'annesburg! Hextr'or' nery be'ayvior of the German Hemperor! Pyper!!" These and other terrifying cries of the raucous paper-sellers reminded a member of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST staff that in one of the pigeon-holes of his brain were stored away the impressions of an interesting chat he had had, some time ago, with a representative Johannesburg phar-



macist, then on a holiday-visit in the country of his birth—one of those very "Uitlanders," in fact, on whose behalf Dr. Jameson undertook his ill-starred expedition. While recalling the details of his conversation with Mr. Trembath, the Johannesburg pharmacist in question, our representative also bethought himself that it would be interesting to obtain the views of one of the leading South African export merchants on the present position and the prospects of the drug-trade in the Transvaal, and straightway he set out to carry his plan into execution.



"Before relating the result of my talks," writes our representative, "it may be useful to give a few details concerning the mushroom city of Johannesburg—a city within which nearly a hundred thousand human beings are now gathered together, although barely eleven years ago scarcely a soul lived on its site. Strangely enough, Johannesburg is called after a son-in-law of the very President Kruger against whose authority a large part of the population have been in a state of simmering rebellion.

"The existence of the gold-deposits to which Johannesburg owes its existence was not even suspected for several years

after the Transvaal regained its internal independence in 1881. It is true that, as far back as 1854, alluvial gold had been found at the Jokeskey river, in the Pretoria district, some distance north of the present Johannesburg, and that the Boer Government of that day prohibited the making known of the discovery under penalty of death, so great being its aversion to the influx of strangers which the knowledge of gold would cause; but not until 1884 was the existence of gold in the quartz-formations of the 'Rand' placed beyond doubt. In that year the first quartz stamping machine was imported, and in July 1886 nine farms on the 'Rand' (or Witwatersrand, to give it its full Dutch name) were 'proclaimed' gold-fields. Gold-seekers flocked to the bare, arid plateau, which had heretofore been accounted one of the poorest parts of the Transvaal, and the Boer Government designated the farm known as Randjeslaagte for the building of a township. The first block of land was sold in December 1886, and a year afterwards Johannesburg numbered about 8,000 inhabitants. Then the great gold boom came, followed by the temporary depression of 1890 and 1891, and again by the steady conversion of the mining business into a settled and progressing industry. There are now in the ugly, rectangular, verdureless town some 100,000 people, or thereabouts, nearly all of them 'Uitlanders,' men without citizen-rights in the State whose revenues are mainly derived from the taxes they pay. The majority of the Johannesburgers are, no doubt, peaceful citizens, as worthy of the rights of self-government as any inhabitants of a well-ordered community anywhere, but it would be idle to deny that the town has considerably more than its fair share of lawless adventurers, larrikins, and cosmopolitan vagabonds, or that a goodly proportion of those who are loudest in their denunciations of the Boer Government, and most rampantly patriotic, are not Britishers at all, but mere international adventurers, with a very large dash of German and Polish Jews."

But to return to our recent visitor, Mr. Henry Trembath, M.P.S., of the firm of Trembath & Lance, the co-proprietor of three or four

CHEMISTS' SHOPS IN THE CAPITAL OF THE RAND.

Mr. Trembath went out to South Africa in 1889, at a time when the Chartered Company was in its birth-throes and the redoubtable "Dr. Jim" had but recently forsaken his medical practice at Kimberley, where he had impartially doctored Britishers, cosmopolitan fortune-seekers, and Dutch Boers.

"Did you find any difficulty in getting registered as a pharmacist in the Transvaal, Mr. Trembath?" was one of the first questions addressed by the C. & D. representative to his visitor.

"None at all," was the answer. "The Boer Government are quite reasonable in the matter of registration. They accept almost every *bona fide* European diploma as equivalent to examination, although they reject the Cape Colony or Natal diplomas. So I just applied for registration, and sent in my 'Major' diploma as a voucher, neatly wound round a ruler. The certificate came back, folded up in an ordinary envelope, with the intimation that I had been placed on the register of qualified pharmacists in the South African Republic. This happy state of things in the matter of registrations, however, will shortly be abolished. A Dutch, or, rather, Transvaal, qualification is in future to be obligatory, and the new Act enforcing the local examination will come into force shortly."

"What are the usual pharmaceutical business-hours in Johannesburg?"

"Nominally, from 8 A.M. till 9 P.M., but in reality we keep open, as a rule, till half-past nine at night. On Sundays we open as usual—much against our will—because public opinion in Johannesburg is adverse to Sunday-closing; but we shut up shop in the afternoon."

"How about assistants' salaries?"

"They average about 17*l* per month for Minor men. Less than that it is certainly not advisable to accept; but good men with the Major qualification can command more, some of them being in receipt of 25*l*. a month, and few of them receiving less than 20*l.* a month. All these salaries are 'outdoors.' I first went to Johannesburg as an assistant at 20*l.* a month."

"After having had other colonial experience?"

"No; I went straight on to the Rand, and I have had no reason to regret it. Lately, after the Matabele war, there

has been a good deal of talk about the advantages of Buluwayo from a pharmaceutical standpoint; but I confess I cannot see where the gain comes in. Johannesburg is an expensive place, but at Buluwayo things are quite 10 per cent. dearer all round than with us, and the salaries, if anything, rather less. I know a pharmacist who went there as hospital dispenser at only 15*l.* per month; and I believe that 20*l.* is considered good pay there."

"Are you much troubled with dispensing by medical men?"



INTERIOR OF TREMBATH & LANCE'S PHARMACY.



MORNING MARKET AT JOHANNESBURG.

"Very little indeed. There are at present 107 qualified medical men in Johannesburg—or, to be strictly accurate, there was that number when I left on my holiday, for our population is so shifting that probably several have come and gone since then—and among the lot there are only six or seven who do their own dispensing. It is not considered quite the thing."

"One hundred and seven medicos to a population of about 100,000? Why, that is a larger proportion than we have here. And yet you talk about your excellent climate!"

"Our climate is excellent—that is true," said Mr. Trembath, who, indeed, looked hale and hearty enough himself. "In fact, to the bulk of our medical men practice in Johannesburg only means decent starvation; but a few of them, including two or three who hold the M.D. degree of London, are making fortunes. Half-a-guinea is the usual fee. As for the health of our city, the natural air is as pure as it can be. We are 5,600 feet above sea level, but during the rainy season epidemic fevers, especially typhoid, are not uncommon, and one of the greatest causes of disease is that Johannesburg, in spite of its wealth, is practically without drainage. In the winter, which is now drawing to a close (with us the seasons are reversed as compared with yours), pneumonia-cases are frequent; and in July I have more than once stood basking in the sun at one side of the street, while the shady side opposite was frozen hard."

"You have your own shop now, of course?"

"Oh, yes, more than one; and, speaking with all humility, I think that our principal shop is a very nice one indeed. All the carboys, show-hottles, and so on were supplied by S. Maw, Son & Thompson, of London, and it certainly speaks greatly for the care exercised by that firm in packing goods that when the entire outfit arrived at Johannesburg (which was not then connected by railway), after a long and rough journey by ox-waggon, only one stoppered bottle was found broken."

Then Mr. Trembath went on to talk about business in the city of his adoption. The principal users of chemicals in Johannesburg and the Rand generally are the mining companies. At every mine there is a native "compound," inhabited by one thousand or more blacks. There is a medical man in charge of the compound, and, as a rule, the company makes a contract with a local chemist for the supply of medicines, mostly fever-mixtures, castor oil, and Epsom salts. Large quantities of cyanide of potash, mercury, borax, soda, and bone-ash are used in the mining-operations, and these are sometimes bought direct, but more often through a wholesale drug-firm.

"What about dispensing-prices? Is there much cutting?"

"No; we are not much troubled that way. A few years ago the Johannesburg chemists—there are at present between thirty and forty, all told—combined for the purpose of establishing a uniform scale of prices. We now charge 3s. to 3s 6d. for an 8-oz. mixture, 1s. a dozen for pills of the usual kind—cocolynth pills, for instance—and 6d. for a chip-box of zinc ointment such as you get for 2d. at home. High prices, you say? Yes; but just think of our expenses. The freight alone on pharmaceutical goods may be taken as averaging one-third of the cost—we pay 8s. 1d. per 100 lbs. railway freight from Port Elizabeth to Johannesburg—and then there is a 7½-per-cent. *ad valorem* duty on 'Apothekerswaren,' or chemists' goods, imported into the Transvaal. There is another point of interest. Sixpence is our smallest coin for all practical purposes. We never give change from a sixpence. They would laugh at you if you showed that you expected such a thing."

"Have you a good trade in Dutch medicines—'stuip-droppels,' Haarlem oil, 'benauwdeheids droppels,' and so on?"

"Yes; pretty considerable. Some come from Holland, Hamburg, and England; but wholesale firms like Lennon and Peterson also make up large quantities. Dutch medicines usually retail at 1s. a bottle; but on market days the Boers from outlying districts will often come in and buy a dozen at a time. The market at Johannesburg is a sight indeed. The entire square is blocked with the Boers' waggon and ox teams. What do they bring? Oh, almost every product of the country—firewood and forage chiefly. Remember, we don't produce anything but gold. The spot where Johannesburg stands is by nature one of the barest on earth."

DR. JAMESON.

Among the medical men who have had professional experience of practice at Johannesburg is Dr. L. S. Jameson, the leader of the recent armed incursion, lately in Pretoria gaol as a prisoner of war. Leander Starr Jameson appears on the medical register as M.R.C.S., Eng. 1875, M.B. B.S., Univ. Lond., 1875, M.D. 1877, L.S.A., Lond., 1876. He was registered on April 23, 1875, and his address in the 1895 issue of that book is still given as "Kimberley, South Africa." Though a comparatively young man, Dr. Jameson has already in life played many parts. He was for some time resident medical officer at University College Hospital. Then his health gave way, and, as a last chance, he went to South Africa, where he rapidly recovered. In 1887 he was in a large practice at Kimberley, the city of inverted paraffin-tins, as the great diamond-town has been irreverently, but aptly, styled. At Mr. Rhodes's suggestion, Dr. Jameson gave up his practice to devote himself to the service of the projected British South Africa Company. One of his first prominent deeds in that capacity was to proceed alone and unarmed to the "Court" of Lohengula, then believed to be a terrible and ferocious monster. Fortunately for Jameson the King was ill—he was generally so—and Jameson had an opportunity of relieving the poor old chief's sufferings by his medical knowledge. Lohengula gave Dr. Jameson the desired concession, as well as permission for the "Pioneers" of the company to march through his Territory. After the successful establishment of Fort Salisbury and other B.S.A. Company's posts, Dr. Jameson was appointed Administrator of Mashonaland, and afterwards commanded the forces in the war against Lohengula, which ended in that unfortunate monarch's defeat, dispossession and death. Our sketch of Dr. Jameson is from a



photograph taken during the first march of the Pioneers into Mashonaland. Dr. Jameson is a man of strong physique, extraordinary powers of endurance, and tastes of Spartan simplicity. The home of the Administrator of Mashonaland at Buluwayo consisted of a bedroom and sitting-room, with mud floor and walls, thatched roof, door made of packing-case lids, and an unglazed window. It was furnished with a bedstead, table, empty box, some wooden shelves and a candlestick consisting of an empty whisky bottle. A medical colleague of Dr. Jameson writes to the *Times* that, shortly before the Doctor's appointment to the post of Administrator of Mashonaland, "Dr. Jim" was summoned to Pretoria to attend President Kruger in a dangerous illness, and brought him back to health.

A CHAT WITH MR. FAIRCLOUGH.

"How does this Johannesburg trouble affect your business with the Transvaal?" our representative asked of Mr. Fairclough, the head of the big London branch of B. G. Lennon & Co., South African drug-merchants.

"We are still executing orders from our Johannesburg branch," answered that gentleman, looking up from his desk over a pile of copies of the *C. & D.* "Had the trouble been so serious as some journals here have alleged it to be, we should

no doubt have had telegraphic orders to stop all shipments; although, to be sure, up to a couple of days ago a message might have suffered considerable delay on the line owing to the block of Government telegrams."

"But the telegrams say that trade is at a standstill, and that women and children are fleeing for their lives?"

"Ah, well, business may be temporarily disorganized, but the gold remains and, come Boer or Briton, it will be got out, involving the presence of a large population with manifold pharmaceutical needs. As for the exodus, that may partly be due to fear, but don't forget that Johannesburg is at present in its Dog-days, and that there is an 'exodus' of ladies and children every year at this time to the seaside resorts of Natal and Cape Colony. Still, as an Uitlander myself (I am a Cape Colonist by birth), I must say that I can find no words strong enough to express my regret at Jameson's action, the evil results of which are sure to recoil chiefly upon Johannesburg."

"Do you have a shop in the Gold city, or only a wholesale branch?"

"Oh no; we have a nice shop, although our principal business is a wholesale one, especially with the mining companies. Next to Port Elizabeth and Capetown, Johannesburg is our chief trade-centre in South Africa. In fact, we had just decided to build a new five-storey warehouse in the place of our present shop, which is one of the ancient buildings of the town, having been constructed some five or six years ago, when only sun-dried bricks were obtainable on the spot, and everything else had to be imported by ox-wagon. The new place would have cost about 10,000*l*, but I am afraid that for the present that project will be postponed."

"You started as a retail place, I suppose?"

"We did. In fact, all our branches were started in that way. We have, however, now, in addition to our chief shop, a branch dispensary at Fortsbury, one of the suburbs of the town, where we have the advantage of being close to two or three of the chief mining companies, including the Crown Reef Company, who are good customers of ours."

Then Mr Fairclough went on to talk of the dispensing charges in Johannesburg, practically confirming Mr. Trembath's statements given above, but adding that quite lately cutting had again broken out on the Rand. "Those charges may seem high to you," he continued, "but just think of our expenses. It is true that we have outgrown the ox-wagon era, but railway freights are extremely heavy."

"You are now well linked to the outer world by rail, though; if I am not mistaken no fewer than three lines converge upon Johannesburg at present. Competition ought surely to have lowered freight-charges."

"It is true that there are now three railways running to the Rand, but up to the present we find only one of them of practical use, and that is the longest of all—viz., from Port Elizabeth through the Orange Free State, a distance of about 720 miles. That is the oldest line. There is also one through Natal, from Durban, about 430 miles, and one from Delagoa Bay, about 360 miles, which was only opened for traffic about a year ago. We have tried to use that line for our wares, but found it no good. In the first place the landing arrangements at Lorento Marques, the port in Delagoa Bay, are inadequate; next, the first fifty miles of the line run through Portuguese territory, and are managed by Portuguese. You never know when a train is going to start on that section, nor when, once started, it is likely to arrive. The most that can be said is that trains do run occasionally, but not to suit business people. As to freights from Europe to South Africa, they are also pretty heavy. Some time ago the new German line took goods very cheaply, but the other South African companies, who have long formed a ring, are believed to have paid the German company a heavy sum to get them to join their 'pool.' At any rate, the tariffs are now the same on all routes."

"What do you think of the Uitlanders' grievances, Mr. Fairclough?"

"There is no denying that the non-citizens living in the Transvaal have many and genuine grievances, but of all means to get these removed, armed rebellion is the least likely to be successful with men like the Dutch Boers. There is no disposition on the part of the Boers to refuse all concessions, but Mr. Kruger's Government are placed in this difficult position—that, while not unprepared to grant greater rights to aliens who give proof that they mean to settle for

good in the Transvaal and are likely to become desirable citizens, they are resolved at all costs to debar the vagrant scum and residuum of nondescript international speculators and adventurers, that abound in all gold-mining districts, from obtaining political power. But this is trenching on politics; let me give you some personal experiences of Uitlander's grievances. I own a few farms in the Transvaal. A farm in that country is almost always 6,000 acres in size. The Boer pays a farm-tax of 3*s*. a year, the Uitlander has to pay 3*l*. Then there are the Customs duties, which are naturally mostly paid by Uitlanders, because the Boers do not use foreign goods much. Next, there is a heavy annual trading-licence; and, again, there are many special taxes, all paid by Uitlanders and spent by Boers. Some time ago, for instance, when the Boers were at war with a native chief, Malaboch, they levied a war-tax of 15*l*. upon each Uitlander carrying on business, while their own people paid nothing. Then there are the concessions. One Lippert, a German Jew, the same individual who is now getting up a national subscription for the Boers in Germany, got the Transvaal Government to give him a concession for the monopoly of the sale of dynamite, an article of necessity in mining. It was expected that Lippert would start dynamite-making in the Transvaal, but, as a matter of fact, he was found to import all the stuff from Europe. He must have made a big fortune out of the business. Recently this concession was renewed, but Mr (or, rather, Herr) Lippert is now to build a dynamite-factory in the Transvaal and make the stuff there for the Government. It was also rumoured some time ago that Herr Lippert was about to acquire the monopoly in cyanide of potassium, another mining-chemical, but the negotiations fortunately fell through, and this business is likely to remain free. We ourselves do a good trade in cyanide. Where does it come from? Frankfort mostly. We require a high test article—98 per cent.—and that is not made in this country at a competing price. We import, however, a lot of drugs and chemicals from England, and you can see that we do a good deal of manufacturing here on the premises. Plumbago-crucibles of English manufacture we also sell largely in the mining districts."

Business Changes.

MR. R. J. WATSON has taken over Mr. G. A. Levick's business at Caistor, Lincs.

MR. S. STEVENSON, F.C.S., has opened a branch shop at South Road, Waterloo, Liverpool.

MR. ALBERT J. J. WEEKS has sold his business at 116 Stapleton Road, Bristol, to Mr. David Hilton.

MR. H. SMITH, Workington, has opened a new business called the St. John's Pharmacy, in that town.

MR. H. T. HINES has bought the business of the late Mr. Allwork, at 86 St. James's Road, Holloway, N.

MR. THOMAS COLEMAN, late of Bicester, has taken the business lately carried on by Mr. G. E. Clarke, at 216 London Road, South Lowestoft.

MR. JOHN CHAMBERS, of Lincoln, has purchased the old-established business of the late Mr. Charles Ferneley, at 61 The Tything, Worcester.

MR. R. W. BROWNLOW has taken the business in Cheap-side, Melton Mowbray, carried on for many years by Mr. Betts, and recently by Mr. H. R. Milner.

PARKE'S DRUG-STORES (LIMITED) are opening three new branches at 173 High Street, Camden Town, N.; 48 High Road, Kilburn, N.W.; and on Broadway, Stratford.

MESSRS. LEDGER, SMITH & CO., of St. Mary's Chambers, St. Mary Axe, E.C., and Calcutta, announce that their partnership came to an end on December 31. Mr. Frank Ledger has purchased Mr. James Walter Smith's share in the firm, and will in future carry on the business under the old style. The important business hitherto conducted by the firm as agents for Messrs. S. J. Tellery & Co., of Bombay, has been excepted from the operation of the above arrangement, and will be conducted by Mr. J. W. Smith at the same address as heretofore.

Novelties.

"OTHNIEL" COCA-TONIC.

THIS is a new coca-wine which Messrs. H. E. Stevenson & Co. have recently introduced, putting it up in imperial pint and half-pint bottles, the shape and colour of which make the preparation a distinctive speciality. Our examination of the wine shows it to be a good preparation, coca extractive and alkaloids being present in medicinal quantity, yet without rendering the wine at all objectionable to taste. Messrs. Walter G. Treacher & Co., Bombay and Calcutta, are the agents for India.

ANTIKAMNIA

is a neuralgia-remedy which has for some years been making headway in the United States, and is now largely prescribed by medical men there. If we may judge from what Mr. John Morgan Richards tells us, it soon will be here also, for 30,000 oz. are now being distributed gratuitously to the medical profession in this country. Dispensing chemists should, therefore, be prepared to fill prescriptions for it. Mr. Richards (46 Holborn Viaduct, E.C.) has taken up the British agency, and carries stock of antikamnia and its combinations, which are put up in 1-oz. sealed packets. We may say that the basis of antikamnia is found in "the derivatives of the amido-benzoles," and the remedy is given in doses of 3 to 8 gr.

CHINOSOL.

MR. B. KÜHN, 38 St. Mary-at-Hill, E.C., has taken up the agency for the British Empire of the new antiseptic and deodoriser, chinosol, manufactured by Messrs. F. Fritzsche & Co., Hamburg. Chinosol is a yellow-coloured powder, which dissolves readily in cold distilled water, both solution and powder having a feeble aromatic odour and an astringent and phenolic taste. The substance is said to be a derivative of chinoline, which statement is corroborated by the reactions which we have obtained. Perhaps the most characteristic reaction of the body is the beautiful blue colour and precipitate which it gives with ferric chloride, disappearing on the addition of nitric acid. It also yields copious white precipitates with alkalies and with barium and silver nitrates. It does not coagulate albumen. Professor Emmerich, of Munich, has reported in favourable terms of the antiseptic properties of chinosol, stating that a 1-in-40,000 solution suffices to prevent the formation of pus. This result is stated to be due to the formation of oxychinoline when the substance comes into contact with alkaline secretions. This group of bodies has given surgery several reliable antiseptics, and chinosol seems well deserving of trial in surgical practice. It is non-toxic.

ARTIFICIAL PERFUMES.

ONE day recently London 'Change was fragrant of the delicate odour of violets, and when the source of the mystery was discovered it was found to be a tiny gramme phial of *violet de Madère*, which Mr. A. Zimmermann, of A. & M. Zimmermann, had in his waistcoat-pocket. We secured a sample of it, and have ascertained that it is made by Scherings, of Berlin, who have been quietly manufacturing the stuff for some time. We have made some violet perfume with it, and although in the proportion of 10 drops to the ounce of S.V.R. the perfume is not so strong as *extrait* of violets, it leaves a delightful odour on the handkerchief. The fragrance was decidedly enhanced by the addition of a few crystals of the same firm's artificial musk

to the solution. The product has already found favour amongst perfume-manufacturers, and for the benefit of those who have not used it, but would like to try, we may say that we imagine it will be best to use it along with some natural violet perfume or with tincture of orris. Either way much economy is effected, at the same time that a delightful and lasting perfume is ensured. The artificial musk to which we have referred is a colourless crystalline body, which dissolves in weak alkali and spirit. The odour of itself is feeble, but in presence of alkali it increases, and becomes remarkably like the odour of natural musk. It is in soap-making chiefly that it will be used. We understand that the firm introduced an artificial lilac ten years ago, but, saving large purchases by a few soap-manufacturers, it did not come into general use. Scherings are again producing it, and at a remarkably low figure.

COPAIBA AND COPAIBA LIQUORS.

WE have received from Messrs. H. E. Stevenson & Co., 130 Southwark Street, S.E., during the past week a fine sample of Maranham copaiba, which they are well placed for supplying, owing to their own large consumption of the article for the manufacture of soluble copaiba liquors, and they tell us that they sell the "balsam" largely to the wholesale trade. The object of this note, however, is to call attention to the quality of the copaiba, which is excellent. It is perfectly bright and of that thick consistency which many prefer. We find it to be free from Gurjun balsam and fixed oils, and to agree fully with pharmacopœial requirements. It contains 42 per cent. of essential oil. We have at the same time taken the opportunity of examining liq. copaibæ, buchu et santal. flav. (Stevenson), one of a series of soluble copaiba liquors introduced by Mr. Stevenson seventeen years ago. The noted feature about these liquors is that although perfectly miscible with water, forming a clear, non-opalescent solution, this characteristic is not obtained by an excess of alkali, as is too generally the case with soluble copaibas. The solution of the liquor named effects practically no change on red litmus-paper, and a single drop of a very dilute acid suffices to turn a solution of $\frac{1}{2}$ dr. quite turbid, a copious precipitate falling as the addition of acid increases. It thus appears from this point alone that the liquor is a desirable therapeutic agent (alkalies being objectionable in venereal complaints except when they are specially ordered), but there is the further fact to note that the liquor has its three medicinal constituents present in good proportions.

MESSRS. G. & G. STERN (LIMITED) announce that they have decided to withdraw the bouns on Pepsalia, Narissa, and Zalones on and after February 15.

BUYERS of synthetic pharmaceutical preparations, aniline dyes, &c., will find in our advertising pages an interesting announcement relating to the sale of Messrs. Bayer & Co.'s goods in this country.

MESSRS. EVANS, GADD & Co., of Exeter, send us, in addition to the monthly price current of drugs, pharmaceutical preparations, sundries, &c., a special net price-list of packed goods, specialties, and patent-medicines, which will be found useful by many chemists.

MESSRS. THOMAS CHRISTY & Co. will continue to hold the agency for the United Kingdom of Dr. Vis's "Analgen," originally manufactured by Dahl & Co., of Barmen, but of which the rights have lately been purchased by the Farbenfabriken vorm. Friedr. Bayer & Co., of Elberfeld.

THE representation for Ireland of the firm of C. F. Böhringer & Söhne, Waldhof, near Mannheim, which has hitherto been in the hands of Mr. Joseph Lecky, of Dublin, has been transferred to Messrs. Domeier & Co., of 13 St. Mary at Hill, London, E.C., who already hold the agency for England.

Gazette.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Amos, D., and Fowler, W. H., under the style of Amos & Fowler, Canterbury, chemists and druggists.

Bluhm, H., Faber, R., Wood, T., and Bluhm, E., under the style of August Faber & Co., Mark Lane, E.C., merchants; so far as regards H. Bluhm.

Blumer, L., and Blumer, W. P., under the style of Blumer & Son, Sunderland, medical practitioners.

Croll, W. L., and Northcroft, G., under the style of Dr. Croll & Mr. Northcroft, Windsor, dental surgeons.

Duckworth, T. H. L., and Hallam, E. H., under the style of Poyer, Duckworth & Hallam, Ashborne, Derbyshire, veterinary surgeons.

Emery, J., and Jackson, D., under the style of Emery & Co., Wednesbury, chemists.

Foster, W. J., Wickham Road, Lewisham High Road, S.E., doctor of medicine, and **Williams, H. B.**, Lewisham High Road, S.E., doctor of medicine, under the style of Mitchell, Foster & Williams.

Gascolgne, C., and Dunford, O. F., under the style of Gascoigne & Dunford, High Street, St. John's Wood, N.W., chemists.

Hall, W., Mayo, F. H., and Hall, R. H., under the style of Hall, Mayo & Hall, Leeds, surgeons.

Hames, G. H., and Huxley, H., under the styles of George Henry Hames and Hames & Huxley, Hertford Street, Mayfair, and Queensborough Terrace, Bayswater, W., surgeons.

Humphries, J., and Penny, F., under the style of W. E. Liue & Co., Reading, mineral-water manufacturers.

Ledger, F., and Smith, J. W., under the style of Ledger, Smith & Co., St. Mary Axe, E.C., East India and colonial merchants.

Miller, R. M., and Swayne, F. G., under the style of Miller & Swayne, Upper Norwood, medical practitioners.

Newton, R. C., and Durant, W. J., under the style of R. Clark Newton & W. J. Durant, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, general practitioners in medicine and surgery.

Peacock, E., and Tomlinson, H. T., under the style of Peacock & Tomlinson, Nuneaton and Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire, surgeons and general medical practitioners.

Summers, A. J., and Oliver, C., the executrix and executor of the will of the late Frank Summers, deceased, and **Clark, O. A.**, under the style of Nunn, Hinnell & Clark, Bury St. Edmunds, chemists and druggists.

Tracy, H. W., and Bascombe, R. E., under the style of Tracy & Bascombe, Bury St. Edmunds and Sudbury, Suffolk, surgeon-dentists.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACTS, 1883 AND 1890.

ADJUDICATION.

Wilkinson, Amo, Newport Pagnell, veterinary surgeon, late of the Lord Clyde, London Road, Clapton, N.E., licensed victualler and veterinary surgeon, and Ashton-under-Lyne, veterinary surgeon.

ORDER MADE ON APPLICATION FOR DISCHARGE.

ose, Frederick, Dovercourt, Essex, mineral-water manufacturer—discharge suspended for three years, ending December 2, 1898.

Deed of Arrangement.

Smith Frederick, 27 Raby Street, Byker, and residing in apartments at 32 Charles Street, Heaton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, dray salter. Trustee, Thomas Dodd, 24 Gardner Street, North Shields, solicitor's clerk. Dated December 23; filed January 4. Unsecured liabilities, 43L 4s. 10d. Estimated net assets, 30L. The following are scheduled as creditors:—

Ismay, John & Sons, Newcastle-upon-Tyne	£ s. d.
..	20 0 0

AMENDE HONORABLE.—“We regret that we were not aware, when commenting upon the cases of prosecution at Birmingham for selling drugs over the prescribed strength in our issue of December 21, 1895, that the offenders were not qualified chemists.”—*Lancet* January 4.

Almanacks, Calendars, and Diaries.

MESSRS. G. B. KENT & SONS, 11 Great Marlborough Street, W., send us a pretty vest-pocket diary neatly bound in green morocco. It is very compact, and, saving the title-page, there is no “Kent” about it.

Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co.’s “Chemists’ Vest-pocket Diary and Ready-Reckoner” is very much improved this year, and there are many useful notes in it. Anyone in the trade who has not received a copy should write for one.

The almanack issued by **Messrs. J. Lennard & Co.**, 19 North Earl Street, Dublin, is a book of over 50 pages, containing many useful household hints. It is well illustrated, and an exceptional feature of it is an accident insurance ticket for 100L.

We have received a copy of **Calvert’s “Mechanics’ Almanack and Workshop Companion,”** published by John Heywood, at 4d. Besides the usual almanack-matter, it contains over 30 articles and tables on subjects of special interest to craftsmen, including notes on lubricants, specific gravity and weight of liquids, heating, gearing, &c.

The **S. S. White Dental Manufacturing Company** print a diary-calendar for dentists which is worth notice. The calendar is a slab of fifty-three sheets of quarto paper. At the top of each is a calendar for the month, and below spaces for the six working-days of the week. Each day has a line for each hour from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. for entering engagements.

Mr. James Burrough, the Cale Street distiller, Chelsea, S.W., has issued a calendar with each day’s date on a central pad, enabling the days to be torn off as a new one comes. This is surrounded by a characteristic sketch, on one side of a Highlander, having a remarkable resemblance to General Booth, and on the other of an Irishman, whom we might take for Mr. John Morley, singing and dancing the *psalm* of Mr. Burrough’s choice spirits.

Mr. James Tate, M.P.S.I., 9 Royal Avenue, Belfast, may have much to answer for during this leap year, for he sends out a wall-almanack in monochrome, with a pretty face upon it, and some poetic lines, the last of which are:—

We now are one, my Jack and I,
And he declares that not a few
Fair damsels who have lovers shy
Have caught their swains with Oylvuy!

It seems that *Oylvuy* is a sweet Irish scent.

Messrs. Newball & Mason, Nottingham, have sent to their customers an artistic monthly calendar upon which there is a fine chromo-lithograph of a smithy interior, wherein the immortal smith—

rests and takes a cooling draught,
To refresh the inner man,
Of beer that gives new life and strength
As only Mason’s can

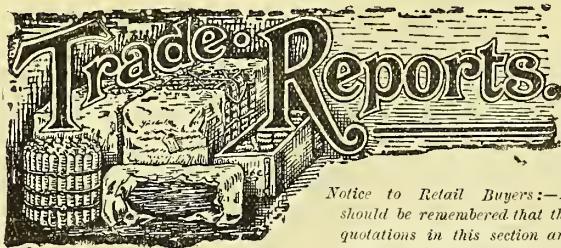
—which is a long way after Longfellow, but serves the purpose all the same, and is “original,” like Mason’s Extract of Herbs.

If there is a bigger “Annual Year-book” issued by a retail druggist than that published by the executors of **H. W. Mackereath**, pharmaceutical chemist, Ulverston and Grange, we shall be glad to hear of it. This year-book for 1896 has over 450 pages in it, dozens of half-tone portraits and views, a local directory, price-lists (drugs, &c., and seeds), agricultural hints, and useful information, which will keep people reading all the year round. We notice that it is priced 1s., and is worth that alone as an example of what the retail drug-trade is capable of doing when business enterprise is grafted on to pharmaceutical experience.

We learn from a Christmas sheet issued by **Mr. Keith Longstaff**, of Fulham, that the following articles “are manufactured by or introduced by” him—viz., phenacetine, Radlauer’s anti-nervine, malakine, migrainine, chloralamide, urethane, bitol, kola-nuts, christia-backed lint, salicylate of soda—bnt we must stop. These are a few of the articles indicated by a head paragraph—

All the preparations marked thus (*) are manufactured by, or have been introduced by *Keith Longstaff*.

He may not mean that exactly, but there it is.



Notice to Retail Buyers:—It should be remembered that the quotations in this section are invariably the lowest net cash prices actually paid for large

quantities in bulk. In many cases allowances have to be added before ordinary prices can be ascertained. Frequently goods must be picked and sorted to suit the demands of the retail trade, causing much labour and the accumulation of rejections, not all of which are suitable even for manufacturing purposes. Further points which should be borne in mind are that distributor generally has to bear the bulk of the freight-charges on the goods on their way from the producer to the retailer, and that for many articles the range of quality is very wide.

42 CANNON STREET, E.C., January 9

BUSINESS in the drug and chemical markets has opened rather slowly this year, so far, at any rate, as the auctions are concerned. To-day's drug-sales were very lengthy, and dragged on until a late hour, but comparatively little was sold. Cape and Curaçao aloes were rather easier, annatto-seed scarcely as firm as it has been. Gum benzoin of all varieties, however, sold at higher prices. Copiba balsam is firm, and buchu is also firmly held. From New York lower prices are quoted for tolu balsam. Cascara sagrada has advanced. Camphor is quite dull. At the cinchona-sales steady prices were realised. Colocynth is well maintained in value. Good cardamoms and cardamom-seed dearer. Dragon's-blood, calumba, cubeb, and cannabis Indica, neglected. Ergot of rye remains cheap. Much higher prices are quoted for gentian-root, while gamboge is very steady. Acacia gum generally quiet. Asafetida slightly easier. In guaiacum sales at full prices have been made for fine varieties. Jamaica honey dull of sale; Californian steady. Jalap is easier. Ipecacuanha about 2d. dearer for Brazilian, and 1d. lower for Colombian. Insect powder and flowers are slowly rising. Gum kino is extremely dear. Lime-juice sold cheaply. Menthol and musk are quite neglected. Mastich rather easier. Nux vomica has a firmer tendency. New cod-liver oil has been sold at steady rates, and orris is slightly dearer. New orange-peel has sold very cheaply. In essential oils there are hardly any changes. Cassia is quoted easier for arrival. Eucalyptus, star-anise, and citronella remain unchanged. Clove oil is slightly lower. Rhubarb remains dull of sale. Jamaica sarsaparilla is slightly easier. Saffron a little firmer. Senna decidedly higher. Tonca beans neglected. Vanilla firm for good qualities. Beeswax is dearer, and Japanese wax is also quoted higher. In chemicals there are few changes. No quotation is yet given for iodine. Quinine is very quiet. Phenacetin unchanged. Quicksilver slightly firmer. Cream of tartar is rising rapidly, and tartaric acid is also firmer. The price of refined camphor has been raised in Germany. In outside articles, galls keep very firm, turmeric is neglected, and the chief feature of the week has been a great drop in shellac. At the spice-auctions pepper and ginger were flat, nutmegs rather easier, cloves very flat and tending lower, chilis dull, and pimento lower. The Bank-rate still keeps at 2 per cent., while bar silver is quoted to-day at 30*fl.* per oz.

The question of fortnightly or monthly drug sales has by no means been definitely settled by the resolution recently adopted by the Drug Club. The party who advocate a change in the present system have taken further active steps to secure their object, and since the beginning of the month a petition, addressed to

the London Produce Brokers' Association, has been circulated amongst prominent wholesale and export druggists and others, suggesting the desirability of adopting monthly public sales. We understand that this petition has been signed by 37 firms, and that it was placed upon the agenda for consideration at the meeting of the Produce Brokers' Association held on January 3. It was then decided to call a public meeting to consider the whole question, and in pursuance of this decision, a notice was posted to-day at the Drug Sale-rooms inviting merchants, brokers, and others interested in the subject to attend the meeting on Monday next at 2 P.M. at Commercial Sale Rooms (No. 2 room). A typewritten slip affixed to the notice on the door of the drug sale-room by some joker, stating that the German Emperor has expressed disapproval of the change, and that therefore the meeting could not be held, was considerably torn off by the commissioner, probably in fear of diplomatic complications which might possibly result. We understand that the members of the Drug Club, having recently carried the resolution that matters should be left *in statu quo*, have decided not to attend the meeting. The resolution was only carried at the Drug Club meeting by a majority of one.

The negotiations by which Brunner, Mond & Co. (Limited) acquire the soda-works of Bell Brothers (Limited), of Teesside, have been completed. The purchase The Teesside includes a considerable tract of land upon Alkali-trade. which, as soon as their plans are completed, Messrs. Brunner, Mond & Co. will begin the erection of an extensive plant for the manufacture of soda. It is anticipated that the new works may be in operation by the end of 1896 or early in 1897. Some little time may elapse before the purchasers take actual possession of the soda-works at Clarence, but for practical purposes the property became theirs on January 1. Mr. Hugh Bell has joined the board of Brunner, Mond & Co. (Limited).

Rapid progress is being made with the organisation of the National Industrial Exhibition, to be held in Berlin from Forthcoming May to September of this year. The chemical Pharma- industry, which will be particularly well represented, will form a group by itself, divided ceutical Exhibitions. into six sections, including one for pharmaceutical and scientific preparations, essential oils, &c., mineral-waters and crude drugs, and another for chemical and pharmaceutical apparatus. The Council of the Chemical Industry group includes Dr. C. A. Martius, President, Mr. Paul Riedel, and Dr. M. Wiedeman. Dr. C. Schacht, Mr. Paul Riedel, and Mr. H. Fenzelberg are among the Committee of the Pharmaceutical Preparations Section. An International Pharmaceutical Exhibition is to be held in Prague (Austria) between August 15 and September 15, in connection with the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the Pharmaceutical Society of Prague. This Exhibition will afford an excellent opportunity for British export firms to bring their goods under the notice of continental (especially Austrian and German) consumers, and we trust that Britain will be better represented at Prague than she has been at past pharmaceutical exhibitions on the Continent. Full information (in English) concerning the Exhibition may be had from Dr. K. Fragner, pharmacist, Chairman of the Executive Committee, Prague III. The Exhibition will comprise the following groups:—Scientific apparatus and instruments used by chemists; pharmacological and kindred literature; machines and instruments for the production of drugs; arrangement of chemists' shops; chemical and pharmaceutical preparations; writings, books, statistical tables, instruments, utensils, &c., referring to the history of pharmacy; chemists' unions and corporations, and hygiene.

The first factory for the preparation of cod-liver oil in Germany has just been started at Geestemünde. It may be objected that cod-liver oil has notoriously been "manufactured" in Hamburg for years; but, Cod-liver Oil. if that is so, it is not of the Geestemünde kind. The Geestemünde factory belongs to a Mr. F. A. Pust, of that town, who recently called together a meeting of owners of fishing-boats for the purpose of expounding his objects to

them. Mr. Pust, it seems, intends to supply any fishing-boat proprietor who applies to him for that purpose with a plant which will admit of the oil-extraction, on board ship, of the livers of cod, hake, or ling caught by the crew. The fishermen are presumably to be paid for this work, though the report only states that they are to hand over the oil thus obtained to Mr. Pust, who has established a factory at Geestemünde, where the oil is to be refined by the best known methods.

The Standard Oil Company of America have declined to fulfil their alleged undertaking to take up a quantity of Disagreement paraffin scale which could not be otherwise in the Petro- disposed of from one of the Scottish oil lium-oil companies. The reason given for this alleged Trade. breach of agreement is that the candle-makers' combination has broken down in consequence of underselling by Scotch makers, and that, on this account, the Standard Company is no longer in a position to maintain prices. It is feared that this action on the part of the Standard Company will terminate the agreement between the Scotch and American producers. Such a result would mean the renewal of keen competition, cutting of prices, and consequent depreciation of all the oil companies' shares.

For many years jalap has been cultivated on the Nilgiris for the purpose of supplying the Medical Stores of Madras.

The tuber, it is now shown, grows excellently and contains a very high average percentage of jalapin. Mr. Hooper, the Government Quinologist, reports that he has had his attention called to the sale in Mincing Lane in December, 1894, of some East Indian jalap at 2d. per lb., when the ruling price for sound tubers was 1s. 5d. The broker reported that the sample was "mouldy and probably worthless, and apparently did not contain any, or only a very infinitesimal quantity of, jalapin." The consignment had been sent to London by an experienced planter on the Nilgiris, who wrote to Mr. Hooper for an explanation of the broker's report, and at the same time sent him some tubers similar to those forwarded to Mincing Lane. Mr. Hooper found that these contained 12.2 per cent. of resin and in other respects were of good quality, and gave it as his opinion that the mouldy condition of the drug was the sole cause of its depreciation in the market. This investigation also caused him to examine several tubers grown in the Dodabetta plantations. The result showed that tubers grown in the original plot, where crops had been taken for several years, indicated a decided decrease in the amount of resin. For instance, the last batch of drug supplied to the Madras stores contained only 12.9 per cent. of resin as against 16 per cent. six years ago. On the other hand, some of the tubers cultivated on fresh soil yielded 15.3 per cent. of resin, and one fine tuber, grown with a liberal supply of manure, gave as much as 22 per cent. of resin—a phenomenal record in the history of jalap cultivation in India.

The annual report of the Queensland Mining Department for 1894 reports that the Mount Biggenden mine is principally worked for bismuth, but contributed Queensland 394 oz. of gold as a by-product. The machinery Bismuth. has been greatly improved, and now, after the ore leaves the mine, hardly any handling is required in the process of bringing it up from perhaps 1 or 2 per cent. to something over 30 per cent. Some new bismuth discoveries have also been made near Mount Hastings, not far from the former mine. Bismuth is raised only in two mining districts—Gayndah and Ravenswood. In 1893, 55 tons, valued at 8,700*l.*, were raised in the Gayndah district, and 19 tons, valued at 1,976*l.*, in the Ravenswood district. In 1894 the quantity was 35 tons, valued at 4,680*l.*, in the Gayndah district, and 30 tons, valued at 1,590*l.*, from the Ravenswood district. The statement of exports, however, accounts for only 36 tons 3 cwts., valued at 4,702*l.*

Mr. Albert M. Todd, of Kalamazoo, Mich., one of the leading distillers of peppermint oil in that State, has reported Michigan that the yield of oil of peppermint in Michigan Peppermint Oil. was about 150,000 lbs. last year. Ordinarily, about 350 lbs. of half-dried American pepper-mint plants produce 1 lb. of oil. The average yield per

acre for a period of twenty years, for the first two years after planting, has been about 12 lbs. per annum. It has sometimes exceeded this, and sometimes fallen short, on account of frost, drought. The area under peppermint cultivation, both "old" and "new" crops, last year he estimates at from 12,000 to 15,000 acres. There has been a greater quantity of inferior oil of peppermint produced last year than usual, since the "old" crop was largely cut down by frost and drought, which permitted the growth of weeds, and owing to careless cultivation in some localities the quality was poor.

The London cinchona auctions for 1896 have been fixed for the following dates:—January 7, February 18, March 17, Cinchona April 14, May 12, June 9, July 7, August 18, Auctions. September 15, October 13, November 10, and December 8.

ACID (CITRIC).—Steady at 1s. 2d. to 1s. 2*1*/*2*d. per lb. for English.

ACID TARTARIC is again firmer. The spot price for English (B.P.) from the manufacturers is still 1s. 2d., but for forward delivery 1s. 2*1*/*2*d. is asked. *Foreign* is not obtainable on the spot below 1s. 2d., and for forward delivery at 1s. 2*1*/*2*d. At to-day's auctions 42 bags of *Cape* argol was bought in at 57s. 6d. per cwt. For a lot of clean pale pinky, but dusty, 53s. per cwt. was bid.

ACONITE.—Twenty-seven bags *Japanese* root were bought in to-day at 23s. per cwt.

ALCOHOL.—*German* potato-spirit has recently become a little firmer. For quantities from 6d. to 7d. per gallon in bond, c.i.f. terms, is now quoted.

ALOES.—*Cape* aloes, of which the large supply of 109 cases was offered to-day, sold at a decline of 1s. 6d. to 2s. per cwt., the bulk being disposed of at 2s. 6d. to 22s. for good bright hard, 20s. to 21s. for fair, and 19s. 6d. down to 15s. for partly drossy to ordinary sandy. Of *Curaçao* aloes 252 boxes were offered, 120 selling at rather easier rates—nominally, 15s. to 15s. 6d. for fair capey, and from 6s. 6d. down to 2s. 2d. per cwt. for ordinary common; 40 gourds of fair to good livery realised from 31s. to 35s. per cwt.; 22 kegs of *Socotra* aloes from Bombay, said to be the first arrival of the new crop, were shown, but are held over for rather higher prices—viz., 80s. to 82s. 6d. per cwt. for softish to fair bright.

AMBERGRIS.—A very considerable quantity, consisting of over 250 oz., mostly of poor quality, was offered to-day. At auction no sales were made, although a bid of 24s. per oz. is to be submitted for a common lot.

ANNATTO-SEED.—Still in fair demand, but slightly easier. Common *East Indian* sold to-day at 1*1*/*2*d., fair quality at 2*3*/*4*d. per lb.

ASAFOETIDA.—A parcel of 102 cases, from Bassorah, was placed in sale to-day, and practically all bought in; but after the auctions 16 cases sold at a reduction on the price required some time ago—viz., 55s. to 57s. per cwt. for fair almondly lump, slightly stony mixed.

ASPHALTUM.—At auction one or two parcels of *Egyptian* and *Syrian* were offered and bought in. The demand is very small, but some business in good *Syrian* has lately been done at about 30s. per cwt. *Egyptian* is quoted at 50s. per cwt.

BAEL-FRUIT.—Quite neglected. A parcel of 41 bags ordinary slices sold at $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. to-day.

BALSAM COPAIBA has a decidedly firmer tendency for good qualities, although at to-day's auctions no sales were made, 5 casks thick yellow *Maranham* being bought in at 2s., and 7 casks pale, thin *Pará* at 1s. 11d. per lb. Three 400-lb. casks of a thin red balsam were also bought in at 1s. 9d. per lb.

BALSAM TOLU.—At auction to-day 22 packages were bought in: fine, nominally at 3s.; good, from New York, at 2s. 6d. per lb. Privately, however, the market is reported lower in America, with offers at from 2s. to 2s. 2d., c.i.f. terms, according to packages.

BENZOIN.—Again dearer and in fair demand; of 89 packages *Palembang* gum, 27 sold at an advance of 2s. 6d. per

lb., at from 32s. to 34s. 6d. for fair almond. *Siam* gum was in large supply, 30 cases being offered. Of these six sold—pale small to bold, good loose almonds at 22s. 15s. per cwt.; small to fair-sized almonds, pale, 15s. per cwt., and hard brown almonds, in block, at 10s. per cwt. Of *Sumatra* gum, about 160 cases were offered; 43 found buyers at an advance for the better qualities. There was one fine lot, recently imported from Hamburg, but which had originally been sold in London some years ago. It consisted of fine bright, bold, almond seconds, well packed, and was expected to realise 107 10s. per cwt. As a matter of fact, it brought from 11s. 7s. 6d. to 11s. 15s. per cwt. Good seconds, small to medium, pale almonds, slightly false-packed, realised 8s. to 8s. 10s., and fair seconds, rather false-packed, 6s. 12s. 6d. to 6s. 15s. per cwt. For poor dull and very false-packed seconds from 5s. 15s. to 6s. 7s. 6d. per cwt. was paid.

BUCHU.—Without quotable change, but very firmly held. A considerable supply was offered to-day, but all bought in, bids of 4d. per lb. being refused for good bright round green leaves, for which from 5d. to 5½d. is required. Six bales of thin narrow green leaves were bought in at 6d. per lb.

CALUMBA unchanged. Good washed was bought in at 45s. per cwt. while for fair rather dark mixed a bid of 8s. was refused, 10s. being the price at which it was bought in.

CAMPHOR (CRUDE).—No business whatever is reported, and the quotations are nominal—*Japan*, 185s.; *Fermosa*, 185s. per cwt., c.i.f. terms.

CAMPHOR (REFINED).—In Germany the prices were raised a few days ago to 485m. per ½ kilo., which is equal to about 2s. 3½d. per lb., London terms. The English refiners, however, have made no change.

CANNABIS INDICA.—Quite neglected. A considerable supply was bought in to-day at 2½d. to 3d. per lb. for fair tops.

CARAWAY-SEED.—*Dutch* is firmly held at from 25s. 9d. to 26s. 9d. per 50-kilo. bag, f.o.b., according to quality.

CARDAMOMS.—At to-day's auctions 137 packages of cardamoms were offered. A very good demand prevailed, 128 packages selling at steady prices for medium grades (ordinary kinds were occasionally 1d. per lb. lower) to an advance of 1d. to 2d. per lb. for fine. *Seed* was fully 2d. per lb. dearer, and *Wild* cardamoms realised extreme prices. The following are the quotations:—*Ceylon-Mysore*: Good to fine medium to bold heavy pale, 2s. 10d. to 3s. 3d.; medium, 2s. 6d. to 2s. 8d.; good pale small to medium, 2s. 1d. to 2s. 5d.; small to medium long pale, 1s. 10d. to 1s. 11d.; lean yellowish, 1s. 8d. to 1s. 11d.; small palish, 1s. 5d. to 1s. 7d.; very small specky or brown, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d. per lb. Good *Wild* *Ceylon* (6 cases), 2s. 9d. to 2s. 11d. per lb. *Seeds*, 2s. 2d. to 2s. 4d. per lb.

CASCARA SAGRADA has attracted considerable attention lately, and prices are quoted much higher, although it is doubtful whether the figures asked could actually be obtained in the market. For good bright bark from 20s. to 22s. is now asked on the spot, but some offers at 18s. per cwt., c.i.f. terms. The advance is said to be due to the raising of freights from California to New York, in consequence of the combination of railroads. It must, however, be borne in mind that the bulk of the London supply is shipped by sailer from San Francisco. At auction to-day 15 bales sold readily, ordinary dark damaged at from 18s. to 20s. per cwt.

CASCABILLA.—Ten bags good, partly silvery bark were bought in to-day at 55s. per cwt. A bid of 48s. per cwt. was declined.

CINCHONA.—The first sales of the year were held in London on January 7, when 1,761 bales (mostly East Indian) were offered. *Ceylon* bark was represented by 43 bales. The bulk of the supply sold at very firm prices, the unit averaging 7d. per lb. At to-day's auctions 159 bales of rather dull cultivated flat *Bolivian Calisaya* sold at 8½d. for sound, and from 7d. for good down to 1d. for very common damaged. Of 20 packages Crown bark, 5 sold at 10d. for sound, partly broken quill; and from 7d. to 9d. for damaged ditto. Good bright was bought in at 1s. per lb. Fifty-two packages *Carthagena* were bought in at 12d. per lb. for damaged, and 65 bales of *Maracaibo* at 12d. per lb.

CIVET.—Fine quality remains exceedingly scarce. At auction 6 horns very common, which have been offered before, were shown at 15s. per oz., but there are no buyers. Medium grade was bought in at 30s. per oz.

COCA-LEAVES.—Qu'est. Ten bales were bought in to-day—*Huanoco* character at 1s. 6d., broken pale at 1s. 2d. per lb.

COLOCYNTH.—Fine *Syrian* colocynth is still quoted at 2s. 6d. per lb. At auction to-day 13 bales of fine pale quality were bought in, at 2s. 9d. per lb. *Spanish* colocynth is in rather large supply, but good quality is still firmly held. About 42 packages from *Malaga* and *Alicante* were offered. For fine quality 1s. 6d. per lb. is asked, a bid of 1s. 4d. per lb. being rejected. Dark *Spanish* colocynth is held for from 10d. to 11d. per lb., ordinary dull damaged for 8d. to 9d. per lb. A 1-lb. sample box of fine pulp was bought in, at 10s. per lb.

COWHAGE.—Slowly but steadily rising in price, although the demand is slight. 4d. per oz. is now required for ordinary stony mixed.

CREAM OF TARTAR is rising rapidly, and there is every prospect of a further advance. At the end of last week best white *French* crystals sold, on the spot, at 93s. 6d. per cwt., but since then there has been another advance. For shipment the lowest quotation is 92s. f.o.b. *Bordeaux*. The market closes strong and higher, *crystals* being worth 96s. to 97s. per cwt. on the spot; *powder*, 98s. to 100s.

CUBEBS.—Neglected. For fine genuine berries 40s. per cwt. is reported as the price, but at auction 24 bags fair quality with very little stalk were bought in at 35s. per cwt. without eliciting any bid whatever.

CUMIN-SEED.—Good new *Maltese* has been sold this week at 36s. per cwt. on the spot. At to-day's auctions 20 bags dark *Maltese* realised 29s. 6d. per cwt.

CUTTLEFISH.—Rather slow of sale. Prices remain very low. Three cases of dull dark bone sold at to-day's auctions at 2d. per lb., while for a 6-cask parcel from the *Canary Islands*, small to medium, barely fair, a bid of 2½d. per lb. was rejected, 2½d. per lb. being the price.

DRAGONS'-BLOOD.—Fine qualities are held for steady prices, but the demand at auction is extremely slow. Supplies are fairly plentiful, over 50 cases being offered to-day. Good *Singapore* gum in reed was bought in at 10s. per cwt., while for a common lot of broken gum, detached from the reed, 6s. per cwt. is asked. Dragon's-blood in lump was bought in at from 8s. 10s. to 10s. for fair to good bright, 7s. 10s. for medium block and saucers, and 6s. for ordinary sancers. A parcel of dull lump, of a pinky colour, was bought in at 50s. per cwt.

ELEMI.—Quiet, at low figures: 25 cases from *Singapore* were bought in to-day at 30s. per cwt. for fair pale genuine.

ERGOT OF RYE remains cheap and without alteration in price. Of 17 bags new crop "Spanish," five sold at 7½d. per lb. to-day, while 8 bags of nondescript ergot, very wormy and dull, sold without reserve at 6½d. per lb. For 20 bags of good bold Spanish, a bid of 8d. per lb. was rejected, the lot being bought in at 11d.; and another parcel of fair pale *Russian*, imported directly from *Nicolaieff*, was bought in to-day without mention of price.

GALLS.—A quiet market. Fair *Chinese* are quoted at 64s. per cwt. on the spot. Of *Bassorah* galls several parcels were offered at to-day's drug-sales, but no business was effected. The quotations are 62s. 6d. for blue, 45s. to 47s. 6d. for green, and 45s. per cwt. for white.

GAMBOGE.—Firmly held, several good bids being refused. Of 26 packages only six sold at 11d. per cwt. for fair broken pipe, partly blocky, at 9s. 5s. for damp, partly blocky pickings, partly ricey in fracture, and at 8s. 15s. for ordinary dark pipe of ricey fracture and dull colour. Good bright picked pipe was bought in at 12d. per cwt.

GENTIAN-ROOT still continues to advance; fine quality is held on the spot for 20s. per cwt., but higher prices are anticipated, as the supply seems very small and new root cannot be expected for about eight months. For arrival 18s. per cwt. f.o.b. was required a few days ago.

GLYCERINE.—All quotations remain unchanged. Supplies in second hand might be had on the basis of 69s. to 70s. for s.g. 1,260 prompt delivery.

GUAIACUM realised high prices for fair and good grades. At auction to-day 16 cases were offered. Eight of these found buyers; good almondy hard block, 2s. 2d.; fair ditto, 1s. 9d.; common, 6d. per lb.

GUINEA GRAINS.—An offer of 17s. 6d. per cwt. for 78 bags of fair quality was refused to-day.

GUM ACACIA.—Very quiet. A large quantity of *Soudan* sorts was offered at to-day's auctions, but the bulk was bought in at from 50s for fair hard to 60s. per cwt. for good. A parcel of *Trieste* picked gum sold at 57. 10s. for hard yellow grain and (without reserve) at 87s. 6d. per cwt. for duller ditto. Of *Ghezirah* gum a few small parcels are offering, but the price asked—viz., from 45s. to 50s. for fine quality—is much above the actual value. The stock of so-called insoluble *Persian* gum is heavy, red to pale selected being quoted at 15s. to 20s.; sorts at 11s. to 14s. per cwt.

GUM AMMONIACUM.—Four cases partly blocky and dull sold at 25s. per cwt. About 25 other packages were bought in, 30s. per cwt. being the limit for dark to fair partly blocky seedy gum.

HONEY.—*Californian* is still selling privately, at 42s. per cwt. for good quality; 30 cases thick yellowish were bought in at that figure at auction. *Jamzican* honey is rather slow of sale. Four casks very dark thick brown realised 20s. per cwt.; but the bulk of the supply at to-day's sales was bought in. Some fair pale candied *Sandwich Islands* honey sold at 30s. New Zealand and Australian honeys were all bought in.

HOREHOUND.—Eight bales, of 140 lbs. each, of herb were bought in to-day at 21s. per cwt.

INSECT-FLOWERS tending somewhat firmer. Quotations in *Trieste* are advancing slowly. For good to fine genuine powder 120s to 130s. c.i.f. is asked, and for ordinary kinds from 90s. to 100s. c.i.f. The price for flowers ranges from 120s. c.i.f. for the best closed down to 65s. c.i.f. for "open."

IODINE.—The iodine syndicate are still without further news, and in the meantime continue to supply their goods, as we stated some weeks ago, without quoting any definite price on the invoice.

YPECACUANHA.—*Brazilian* root was represented at to-day's sales by 40 bales, of which 23 sold at an average advance of 2d. per lb., fair to good stout annulated sound realising from 4s. 11d. to 5s. 5d. per lb.; damaged root from 5s. to 5s. 3d. per lb. *Carthagena* ipecacuanha, on the other hand, is 1d. per lb. easier, 11 bales out of 26 offered selling at 4s. to 4s. 1d. per lb. for good but slightly damaged quality.

JABORANDI.—Seven bales from *Buenos Ayres*, all rather dull and grey leaves, were offered. They were bought in at 6d. to 8d. per lb., a bid of 4½d. being rejected.

JALAP is fully 1d. per lb. easier. Of 32 bags offered 21 sold at 9d. per lb. for good small to bold, and at 7½d. to 8d. per lb. for damaged or wormy *Vera Cruz*.

JUNIPER-BERRIES.—Twenty bags fair quality realised 7s. 6d. per cwt. to-day.

KAMALA.—Dull of sale. For good quality 10d. per lb. is still the nominal-price, and a bid of 4d. was rejected to-day.

KINO remains exceedingly scarce and dear; a 37-lb. box of genuine quality was bought in to-day at 20s. per lb.; a similar lot has sold privately at 17s. per lb., but probably 18s. would now be the price.

KOLA.—Steady and in good demand; fair to good brown *West Indian* realised from 10½d. to 12d. per lb. to-day.

LIME-JUICE.—12 barrels rather dull from *Barbados*, mixed with sediment, realised 11d. per gallon.

MASTICH.—The supply in London remains pretty heavy, and at to-day's auctions no fewer than 29 cases, including 10 catalogued without reserve, were offered for sale. It is said, however, that in *Trieste* the market is reported slightly higher, and we hear that privately fine pale tear sold recently at the equivalent of 1s. 10d. per lb., landed terms. The lot offered without reserve at to-day's auctions realised from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 6½d. per lb. The quality was good bright, but the tears were not washed. Yellow tear was bought in nominally at 1s. 9d. to 1s. 10d. per lb.

MENTHOL remains quiet. Some parcels at auction to-day were bought in at 14s. per lb.

MUSK is quite neglected, the entire supply at to-day's auctions being bought in at nominal rates. Fine thin-skin first pile *Tonquin* at 85s.; old-fashioned ditto at 75s.; and good thin-skin third pile, at 55s. per oz.

MYRRH.—Slow of sale, and about 2s. 6d. per cwt. lower; fair to good pickings realised 25s. to 40s. per cwt.

NUTMEG-PASTE.—Eight cases of fair quality from *Singapore* were bought in to-day at 3d. per oz.

NUX VOMICA remains very low in price, although holders seem disposed to ask a little more money. A parcel of 120 packages small grey fair seed from *Cochin* was offered to-day at 7s. 6d. per cwt., but there were no bids above 4s. 6d. per cwt. Another lot, from *Bombay*, was bought in at 6s. 6d. per cwt.

OIL (COD-LIVER).—The fishing season is about to commence, and telegrams have already been received from the *Tromsøe* district announcing that between Christmas and the New Year some fish were caught, but that the yield of oil was worse than at the beginning of the season last year. Further and authentic reports, however, are not yet to hand. The price remains practically unchanged. On the spot, 175s. to 180s. is nominally asked for best non-congealing 1895 *Lofoten* oil, but there has been no business lately. New-season's non-congealing *Norwegian* oil has been sold privately this week at 185s. per cwt. c.i.f. terms, shipment first week of January. At auction 7 casks *Newfoundland* and 10 casks *Norwegian* (without reserve) were bought in.

OILS (ESSENTIAL).—Extremely quiet. *Clove* oil is again quoted lower in sympathy with the decline in the raw material. Best English drawn offers at 2s. per lb., but we understand that for large contracts 1s. 11½d., and even 1s. 11d., has been accepted.—*Ylang ylang* oil is reported to be very scarce, and as much as 15s. per oz. is asked for finest quality. *Star anise* oil is again rather firmer. On the spot 10s. 3d. per lb. will still buy, but cablegrams from China mention that the price is 10s. 6d. per lb. c.i.f. nominally. *Oil of cassia*, rather easier for arrival. Oil containing from 70 per cent. to 75 per cent. cinnamic aldehyde offers at 8s. 3d. per lb. c.i.f. terms, but no business has been done. At to-day's auctions only 3 cases *Nutmeg* oil (1893 import) sold without reserve at 1½d. to 1½d. per oz. Another lot was bought in at 3d. per oz. The following oils were among those bought in:—Four cases *Eucalyptus*, described as "Globulns," from *Adelaide*, at 1s. 10d. per lb.; 4 cases *Cassia* at 11s.; 13 cases *Cinnamon* at 6d. to 9d. per oz.; 14 packages *Citronella* at 1s. 10d. to 2s. 2d. (for one lot 1s. 9d. per lb. was refused); and 2 cases *Star anise* at 10s. 3d. per lb. Eleven carboys of *Orange-flower* water sold without reserve at 1½d. per lb.

OPIUM.—The London market remains firm and holders are disposed to ask more money, which accounts partly for the fact that the business lately transacted is but small.

ORANGE PEEL.—Good new *Maltose* peel has been sold privately very cheaply this week—viz., at 10d. per lb. on the spot. For 13 cases fair new-crop *Malta* peel a bid of 8½d. per lb. was rejected. Ninepence would be accepted.

ORRIS has become slightly firmer again. Just before the holidays sales of good picked *Florentine* were reported at 65s. per cwt. on the spot, but to-day 70s. to 71s. c.i.f. is asked for best picked *Florentine*, while good sorts are quoted at from 66s. to 67s. c.i.f. At auction to-day several parcels were bought in—good pale *Florentine* at 80s.; palish cuttings at 50s. per cwt.

PATCHOULY.—Nine bales very stalky leaves were bought in at 4d. per lb.

PHENACETIN.—There is no further change in the position of this article, excepting that *Riedel's* brand has been advanced in price to 10s. per lb. nominally, while *Bayer's* remains as last quoted. There are, however, second-hand sellers of the last-named brand at 8s. per lb., while other brands offer at 5s., and might possibly be had at a shade below that figure for large quantities.

PUMICE-STONE.—Thirteen cases sold to-day at 11s. per cwt.; 25 bags at 2s. 6d. per cwt.

QUICKSILVER.—Firmer. The importers still quote 7l. 7s. 6d., but second-hand holders ask 7l. 5s. to 7l. 6s. per bottle.

QUININE.—Extremely quiet, with few sellers of second-hand German bulk at 13*1/4*d. per oz.

RHATANIA.—Sales of good *Payta* root have been made on the spot at 7d. per lb. lately, but 8d. per lb. is now asked. The price of *Savanilla* is from 4d. to 5d. per lb.

RHUBARB.—Very dull. Of 128 packages offered only about 10 sold: good small flat *Shensi*, pinky fracture, 1s. 6d. per lb.; fine *High-dried*, 11d. per lb.; medium flat *Castor*, 11d. per lb.

SAFFRON is tending somewhat firmer. Finest *Valencia* is quoted according to holder at from 27s. to 29s. per lb., fair or good quality of old crop at 25s. to 25s. 6d. At auction 65 tins *Alicante* were bought in at from 25s. to 26s. per lb.

SANDALWOOD.—A parcel of 118 bundles sandalwood chips sold to-day, without reserve, at the remarkably low price of 1s. per cwt. For another lot of 100 bales 5s. per ton was offered and declined.

SARSAPARILLA.—*Grey Jamaica* root is about 1d. per lb. lower. Sound sold at 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d.; damaged at 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3d. per lb. *Lima Jamaica* realised 10*1/2*d. to 11d. per lb. *Honduras* was all bought in at 10d. to 11d. per lb.

SEEDS (VARIOUS).—Ten bags fair *Dill* seed sold to-day at the low figure of 10s. 6d. per cwt. Of *Anise* several parcels were shown, Spanish being bought in at 30s., Russian at 22s. 6d. per cwt. Thirty bags *Turkish Fennel* seed were bought in at 17s. 6d. per cwt.; and 29 packages common *Coriander* from *Calcutta* sold at 3s. per cwt.

SENNA.—Of *Tinevelly* leaves about 400 bales sold at higher rates: ordinary small yellowish to fair medium 1*1/2*d. to 3*1/2*d., common at 1*1/2*d. down to 3*1/2*d. per lb.

SHELLAC.—The week opened very dull, with a flat tone and very little demand. At the weekly auctions the large supply of 1,377 cases was offered, a considerable portion of this supply being printed "without reserve." The result of the auction was a complete "slump," prices of second orange being from 10s. to 15s. per cwt. lower as compared with the preceding public sales, while *Button* and *Garnet* lacs were also considerably lower. Altogether 666 cases sold:—*Second orange*, good pale, partly cakey, 101s.; fair to good bright free unworked, 94s. to 99s.; red to fair bright, 81s. to 92s.; reddish livery, 80s. to 87s.; flat and weak liver, 66s. to 73s. per cwt. *Garnet*, ruby G., partly hard blocky, 65s. to 75s. *Button*, ordinary dark resinous firsts, 93s. per cwt. The market closes very dull, with sellers of orange TN for January-March, at 81s. per cwt., c.i.f.

SQUILL.—Twelve packages yellow squill sold cheaply at 1*1/2*d. per lb.

STAVESACRE SEED is quoted at about 90s. per cwt. for good quality, supplies being small. At auction to-day a parcel was bought in at 100s. per cwt.

STROPHANTHUS.—For 4 bags greenish *Kombé* seed 3s. 9d. per lb. is the limit. Of 5 bags of *Kombé*, 2 sold at 3s. per lb.

TONCA BEANS.—Dull of sale. Good frosted *Pará* beans were bought in at 3s. to 2s. 6d.; ordinary small foxy and black sold at 9*1/2*d. per lb.

TRAGACANTH.—Very firm. Fine *Persian* firsts, 15l. to 15l. 10s. Business is slight.

VANILLA.—In fair supply. Good quality brought steady prices, up to 28s. per lb. for fine 7 to 8 inches, but ordinary kinds were dull of sale.

WAX (BEES').—*Jamaican* dearer, 7l. 15s. to 8l. being paid to-day for good quality. *Spanish* sold at 6l. 10s. per cwt.; *Australian* at 6l. 17s. 6d. to 7l.; and good clean yellow *New Zealand*, at 6l. 15s. per cwt.

WAX (JAPAN).—Higher. At auction to-day 30s. per cwt. was paid for good pale, and 25s. for ordinary quality.

The Liverpool Drug-market.

Our Liverpool Correspondent, writing on January 8, says that in *Gums* consumers continue to take very sparingly of *Acacia*

descriptions, *Soudan* sorts moving slowly at the present high range of prices, but holders are fairly firm. A fresh supply of *Brazilian* has arrived; the quantity, however, is very moderate, but it will probably meet with a very ready sale. There has been a brisk trade in *Kola nuts*; 20 bags of *dry* selling at prices ranging from 6d. to 7d. lb. and 7*1/2*d. bid for a parcel of *fresh* was refused, the holders asking 9d. *Castor oil* is in good demand notwithstanding the recent full prices paid. *Good seconds Calcutta* are changing hands at 2*1/2*d., and all the cheap lots of *Madras* have been sold, holders now asking 2*1/2*d. *First pressure French* is not in large supply and holders quote 23s. 8d. for the little available. *Wax* has met with ready buyers at 7l. 7s. 6d. for mixed *Chilian*, chiefly for export, and holders demand 8l. to 8l. 10s. for fine *yellow*. *Chilian aniseed* has been selling in ton lots at 22s. 6d. per cwt., and the same price is asked for *Turkish*. *Chilian* and *Californian honey* are firmly held at the rates lately ruling. There is not any quotable change in the position of *Canary seed*, but holders are very firm at the rates which have now ruled for two or three weeks. *Egyptian* and *Bombay Fenugreens* offer at 8s. 6d. cwt. *Cream of Tartar* is in good demand, and an advance of quite 5s. cwt. has been established during the week for the finest white grades.

Heavy Chemicals.

(Where no prices are quoted in this report the figures given in last week's table still hold good.)

The market all round is very quiet. Business has not yet got fairly started after the holidays, and the demand so far has only been a limited one. An alteration should, however, take place very shortly. Consumers who were not desirous of having large stocks at the close of the year will naturally have to pass new orders soon. Prices are to a great extent unchanged, but remain firm, with perhaps a slightly upward tendency in a few leading products. *Alum* quiet. *Sulphate of alumina*, moderate demand; prices for lumps in bags now stand 3l. 15s., and crushed in bags 3l. 17s. 6d. *Sulphate of ammonia* continues quiet and weak, but without any definite change. Quotations for next month and March are 8l. 12s. 6d. to 8l. 15s., f.o.b.; 306 tons were exported from Leith last week. *Ani inc oil* and *Salt* firm. For all *Barium compounds* demand is very heavy at present. *Barium chloride* has advanced—crystals to 6l. 15s. and crude calcined 6l. to 6l. 5s. per ton. *Carbonate* unchanged. Precipitated *Sulphate (Blanc fixé)* very firm with upward tendency. *Benzol* quiet, but firm. *Bleaching-powder* continues to move steadily, and there is a good inquiry for forward delivery and shipment. *Sulphate of copper* firm. *Green copperas*, both Lancashire and Welsh, in brisk demand, and still rather scarce. *Bichromate of potash* remains steady. *Chlorate of potash* firm, at late rates for prompt and forward. *Yellow Prussiate* scarce. *Borax* firm. *Bichromate of soda*, good inquiry and scarce on spot. *Soda ash*, caustic and carbonated, quietly steady. *Caustic soda* very firm. *Hyposulphite of soda* steady, and fair quantities are being sold, especially for export. *Recovered sulphur* has more inquiry just now. The *Oil* market is quiet, very little business of any moment being transacted. *American Petroleum* now stands 7*1/2*d. to 8*1/2*d., and *Russian* 7d. per gallon. *Turpentine* unchanged and very firm.

PEARS AND PIGS.—One has to go abroad to find out what is happening in one's own city. Our German contemporary the *Droguisten Zeitung* states that Mr. Barratt, "of the firm of Pears, the King of Advertisers," has just taken a number of show-windows in the most prominent and fashionable parts of London, and exhibits in them two pigs, "one a colossal porker of the most unredeemed and dirty description, the other a beautiful clean pink little pig." Above the dirty one is the inscription "This pig has not been washed with Pears' Soap," while a notice above the clean animal declares its cleanliness to be due to the use of Pears'. It is hardly necessary to say that the Messrs. Pears would be the last firm in the world to perpetrate so vulgar and pointless an advertising-joke as the one described, but we have no doubt that the German editor and many of his readers will not only unhesitatingly believe the pig-story, but look upon it as a smart and delicate way of enlisting the sympathies of a well-bred public.



Memoranda for Correspondents.

In letters for publication correspondents are requested to express their views as concisely as possible.

Correspondents should write on one side of the paper only, and devote a separate piece of paper to each subject of inquiry.

The name and address of the writer should accompany all communications with, if desired, a distinctive nom-de-plume.

Mr. Wellcome Does Not Complain of "British Injustice."

SIR,—My attention has been called to a paragraph in your issue of December 21, quoting from what purports to be an interview with an American gentleman, and headed "British Injustice to Americans." It is very seldom that I give heed to gossip of this kind; but as the statements attributed are so extremely unjust and misleading, I feel it my duty to comment upon them. The incident to which undoubtedly the interview refers occurred in connection with the Chemical and Pharmaceutical Exhibition held at South Kensington in 1881, but the alleged facts and inferences are perfectly incorrect. The action of the jury was strictly one of personal prejudice, and was in no sense a national one, and in no sense represented the views and opinions of the profession and trade generally in England. Probably the spirit of fair-play which prevails in the British Empire was never more perfectly exemplified than by the manner in which the leading journals then spontaneously took up the cudgels and belaboured the jurors for what the *Lancet* was pleased to denounce as a "miscarriage of justice." These journals took occasion at the same time to point out the extreme importance of the unique scientific improvements in pharmacy Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. were introducing. As a direct result of the spirit of fair-play so strongly manifested by the profession, trade, and press, we derived more benefit from this incident than if the "unjust judges" had freely awarded us a hundred gold medals. The jury afterwards reluctantly revised their awards and offered us a medal, which we declined to accept. Since this incident we have always received highest awards.

Individual prejudices and petty antagonisms are to be met with in every country; but I venture to think that in no country in the world is there a higher spirit of fair-play and justice than is found in the national sentiment of Great Britain. I have never had reason to feel myself either a stranger or a foreigner in this country. My own ancestors were Englishmen, and, like most Americans, I feel that I have a heritage in the grand traditions of England, and I know that England is proud to claim parentage of my own beloved homeland.

Englishmen and Americans, although of close kin, do not always understand or appreciate each other's methods, and this is perfectly natural, for Britons are generally characterised by undying conservatism, sturdy persistence, and patient submission to precedents, whilst Americans are generally characterised by a quickened creative energy, almost breathless activity, and a disregard for precedents. Both are proud, sensitive, and aggressive, and have a sublime conceit—otherwise they would not be Anglo-Saxons.

It has always been my earnest endeavour (and it was always the endeavour of my late partner) to promote good understanding and closer social and commercial relations between the two peoples. England and America are united by such close kinship, and by such mutual interests, that whoever attempts to create discord between them does a grievous wrong to both. Very respectfully yours,

HENRY S. WELLCOME.

Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.,
January 7.

The Phenacetine Trade mark.

SIR,—I was requested to read your article on the position of phenacetine, with a view to advise my correspondents as

to the line of action to be taken with regard to the use of the word "Phenacetine."

Having myself a good deal of experience with the *Trade-marks Register*, I went to headquarters, and ascertained what I suspected—namely, the word "Phenacetine" by itself is not protected, but if used in connection with the signature of Messrs. Bayer & Co. (*vide* No. 70,066, November 30, 1887).

To anyone experienced with the ways of the British Trade-marks office this says that the Registrar objected to the registration of the word "Phenacetine" pure and simple, but consented to receive it if qualified by the distinctive design of Messrs. Bayer & Co.'s signature.

Therefore anybody may use the word "Phenacetine" provided he does not bring it into connection with Messrs. Bayer & Co.'s signature.

Such registrations of words we look upon as good enough for the ignorant or timid, but practically they are valueless. For instance, nothing could prevent Messrs. Howards & Sons to register "Quinine Sulph." with their signature attached, or, as I have often done, a well-known chemical with Schering's signature. The British Trade-marks office does not give the protection for the word, but for the design as a whole—that means, the word in connection with the signature constituting a design.

The same applies to the context of words of "Bayer's Antipyretic Phenacetine" (*vide* No. 75,295, of April 20, 1888). The new law does not admit even such context of words.

I remain, Sir, yours very truly,
6 and 7 Cross Lane E.C., AUG. ZIMMERMANN.
January 8,

"When in difficulty consult the C. & D."
(Pharmaceutical maxim).

SIR,—Last Saturday a tall stranger inquired for "Professor Holloway's" voice-machine. We had never heard of it. Could we get it for him? We asked his name and address. He gave a name, and the name of an important street, but no number. Asked for the number he dexterously evaded the point, said he would call on Monday for it, and tendered a deposit of 1s. Curiously enough a brother-chemist in the immediate vicinity had a precisely similar experience. An address (name and street, but no number) and a similar deposit were tendered. My *confrère* was suspicious, and told his errand-boy to follow the man, who went first to the nearest "pub," and then to the railway-station. He put me on my guard, and so far we are both on the right side of the fence, and mean to keep so. We have seen no more of the man, though he was to call on Monday.

Can you help to put chemists on their guard?

Yours faithfully,

30 Church Street, S.E. HERBERT H. PRESBURY.

[The hand-bill sent with the above letter advertises a "voice-machine," recommended by the *Lancet* and *Chambers' Journal*, and it is to be obtained for 10s. 6d. from "Professor Holloway's dépôt, 51 New Oxford Street, London, W.C." The well-known Professor Holloway's business is at 78 New Oxford Street, W.C.]

A French Anti-cutting Scheme.

SIR,—I read with much interest the letter published by you last week under the above heading, but was slightly disappointed to find that Mr. Hill offers nothing beyond details already published in your issue of September 21, 1895. We know the scheme has been drawn up for the last six months; but can Mr. Hill tell us where it has been adopted, and if its working capabilities have already been put to the test of actual experience? At present I fear we are still in the position of *Æsop's mice*, and that the "cat" of cutting-prices does not yet wear the "bell" so elaborately arranged for our benefit.

Further particulars regarding this, and likewise the iodine scheme (touched upon in your issues of January 5, January 19, and February 2, 1895), would indeed be interesting; but I am afraid THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST has already published all details, and that we must wait a year or two

for any practical results on which definite action could alone be based.

Yours sincerely,

Paris, January 7.

SCEPTIC. (240/7.)

[Mr. Hill expressly stated that the scheme had been "submitted" by the Council of French Pharmacien.]

Anti-cutting Arrangements.

SIR.—The Frame-food Company (Limited) announce an improvement in terms for their goods. On looking into the matter, however, it seems the advantage is more apparent than real, as the company have now ceased paying carriage to the country upon the goods. It is therefore clear that the extra discount would be all required to pay carriage to country buyers; so it is not easy to see where any benefit will be had from the change.

Yours, &c.,

January 8.

COUNTRY BUYER. (240/37.)

DISPENSING NOTES.

Correspondents should consult "The Art of Dispensing" in regard to dispensing difficulties. Difficulties not explained therein may be sent to the Editor, who invites a general expression of opinion upon the under-mentioned topics.

Cocoa-butter Suppositories.

SIR.—In a case such as the one "Carrick" mentions I should say it is permissible, if the capacity of the mould used be 15 gr. of cocoa-butter, to practically discount the 3 gr. of iodoform, and take almost 15 gr. of basis, in order to fill the mould, and thus readily get uniformity of size and finish. I should say this is the intention of the Pharmacopœia.

Moulds vary in capacity to the extent of a grain or so, but presumably a dispenser knows the capacity of the one he uses, and this being so there should be no difficulty in his weighing at once the quantity of basis which, with the medicament ordered, will just fill it.

It is well to make seven if six be wanted, but they should all be completed, as a safeguard against any of the seventh finding its way into one of the six.

The Pharmacopœia should define the size of suppositories, and then in the formulæ the medicament could be specified and basis a sufficient quantity. A recommendation to this effect has, I believe, been sent in to the Pharmacopœia Committee.

Edinburgh.

PETER BOA.

SIR.—When six suppositories are ordered it would be an utter waste of time to weigh out ingredients for and attempt to make six only. Often have I witnessed under such circumstances an examinee's futile efforts to fill the six holes, and the harder he scraped and worked the worse was the turn-out. We recognise mechanical loss in pill-making, and should do the same in suppository manufacture. My advice is to weigh out for seven, and you are sure to get six; the loss of one is unavoidable, and does not practically interfere with an even distribution of dose. As the moulds are made to hold 15 gr. of cocoa-butter, it is certain that if the fat be mixed with heavier substances, like mercurial ointment and bismuth subnitrate, the same moulds may give 17 or 18 gr. suppositories. There is no objection to this, provided that practically the proper dose is contained in each cone. It is impossible to make rules to suit every case. A thoughtful, intelligent operator knows what to do, and invariably succeeds in doing it.

Chertsey.

A. W. GERRARD.

SIR.—In response to your inquiry *re* weight of cocoa-butter suppositories, our custom is, when the sp. gr. of the suppository is increased by heavy substances such as iodoform, the mould is always filled by estimating the amount necessary and using an excess of cocoa-butter sufficient to fill the mould, thus increasing the weight, but adhering to the quantity of active ingredients in each suppository. I find when our small moulds are filled with cocoa-butter that the contents weigh exactly 15 gr. Experience should guide the dispenser as to the amount of this necessary to be used when such substances as iodoform,

bismuth, and mercurial ointment are ordered in suppositories. This is fulfilling the spirit of the prescriber as well as of the Pharmacopœia, as may be seen from the directions given for making the official glycerine suppositories.—"Pour the product into suppository moulds holding 30, 60, or 120 grain-measures, or having other capacities as required." The pharmacist is supposed to use his ordinary intelligence as to how to get the amount of active ingredients ordered into each suppository.

W. MARTINDALE.

10 New Cavendish Street, W.

SIR.—"Carrick" has raised a point upon which there is diversity of opinion among pharmacists, but to my mind you have accurately stated what is the usual practice in trade. With reference to what is the custom at examinations I have always found that candidates prefer to adhere strictly to the B.P., and lose a suppository, rather than follow what experience has taught them to be the proper method.

T. W. ROBINSON.

Kingstown.

SIR.—I think in the Pharmacopœia it would be better to say "Oil of theobroma a sufficient quantity," rather than to maintain a definite weight as at present.

In dispensing an experienced dispenser takes care to get the full quantity of active ingredients in each suppository, and is able to do so with an inappreciable loss.

Liverpool.

CHARLES SYMES.

SIR.—I believe that it is now a general custom to make suppositories of the bulk of 15 gr. of cocoa-butter; that is, to fill the 15-gr. moulds supplied by manufacturers. I therefore think that in the forthcoming edition of the British Pharmacopœia it will be advisable to recognise this custom. If so, it will be necessary to alter the formulæ and directions in each case, or, still better in my opinion, to give general directions as to size, shape, and nature of basis under the heading of "Suppositoria," and to append under the heading of each official suppository the proportion of medicament.

Of course the chief point is to ensure the correct amount of active ingredient in each suppository; and this result is best obtained by taking sufficient both of medicament and of basis to make one or two extra suppositories.

225 Oxford Street, W.

WALTER HILLS.

SIR.—I take it that the quantity of medicament ordered is required to be incorporated with sufficient of the base to fill the mould, and I believe that is the usual practice, also to weigh for more suppositories than are required because a certain quantity is lost in the dish and on the mould.

The B.P. wording is a slip: it cannot mean that chemists should keep a different mould for each suppository, and it would be in opposition to the practice existing before the introduction of them into the B.P. "Suitable moulds of the capacity of 15 gr." must, or at all events should, refer to a definite volume, and it is very unlikely that the formulæ for supp. acid. tannic. and supp. hydrarg. if divided into twelve equal parts would occupy the same bulk.

ANON. (240/23.)

SIR.—I do not adhere to the B.P. in this matter, simply because it is an impossibility. It is clear that the order of the B.P. is that each suppository should weigh 15 gr. The exact directions of the B.P. should be altered, or the moulds should be so constructed as to render literal obedience to its rules practicable. The latter plan seems theoretical owing to differences in sp. gr.

DISPENSER. (237/50.)

Ung. Conii

is in the B.P. Additions, which you seem to forget replying to "Mortar and Pestle" this week.

Yours truly,

Beeston, January 3.

A. PERKS.

[We have received similar corrections from others.]

MISCELLANEOUS INQUIRIES.

223/56. *Price.*—Hop-bitter Beer as now sold is a fermented beer containing 2 per cent., or less, of proof spirit. To make it, dissolve 4 lbs. of sugar in 10 gallons of hot water, and add the following mixture:—

Tincture of lupuline (1 in 20 of S.V.R.)	3ij.
Oil of cassia	3ij.
Oil of citronella	3ij.
Tincture of capsicum	3ij.
Dissolve, and add—	
Tincture of chiretta	3ij.
Cone. compound infusion of orange	3ss.
Caramel to	3iv.

When the temperature of the syrupy fluid is reduced to 80° F., add $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of compressed yeast; ferment for twelve hours, skim off the yeast, strain through a felt bag, and bottle.

224/66. *New Subscriber.*—Angostura tonca beans are the finest. Surinam beans, strictly so called, do not come into the London market.

224/73. *Toby*—Irish Moss does not make a clear jelly; it is slightly opaque. The way to make it is to wash the moss thoroughly with cold water, after picking and rejecting the root-like portions, then steep in cold water (8 parts to 1 of moss) for half an hour, strain, and reject the liquid, and boil the moss with from ten to twenty times its weight of water, according to the strength of jelly required, and strain.

227/60. *Digitalis.*—There are no dispensers in the English navy, but there are naval hospital dispensaries, for which see our issue of September 7, 1895. There are pharmacists in the United States Navy, and they must be qualified either by a State Board or as graduates in pharmacy. In regard to this matter see the *C. & D.*, May 25, 1895, page 729.

227/55. *Cucumber.*—The Cucumber paste to which you refer is a combination of cucumber ointment, soap, and borax. We have no idea how the manufacturers make it, and do not think it would be fair to tell if we did know. The ointment is made by digesting fresh cucumbers in lard. Is it this you mean?

225/13. *Premier.*—(1) Camphor, Rosemary, and Eucalyptus Hair-wash Powder:—

Flowers of camphor	3j.
Powdered borax	3ij.
Eucalyptus oil	3j.
Oil of rosemary	3j.
Mix thoroughly.	

To be put up in $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. packets to retail at 2d. each. (2) Corn-salve.—See *C. & D. DIARY*, 1894, page 360.

227/47. *R. H. F.*—Glycerin. Pepsin Acid is best made from the fresh stomachs, but as that is not possible for you, you may make it in the following manner:—

Scale pepsin	3vj.
Dilute hydrochloric acid	3vj.
Distilled water	3ij.
Sherry wine	3ij.

Macerate for a day; then add—

Glycerine	3xv.
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Continue the maceration for two days, allow the glycerine to settle, decant the clear portion and filter the rest.

See an advertisement in the *C. & D.* last week regarding this subject.

227/40. *T. R. C.*—Clear Sulphur Hair restorer.—This is not very satisfactory, because it deposits on exposure. The best formula is—

Acetate of lead	3j.
Glycerine	3j.
Water	3iv.
Dissolve, and add a saturated solution of sodium hypophosphite until the precipitate formed is re-dissolved; then add—	
Concentrated rose-water to	3xx.

243/18. *Ixion*—Coghill's Inhalation-fluid:—

Tr. Iodi material. (25 gr. to 5l.)	5j.
Acid. carbolic.	5j.
Creosote (eel thymol)	5j.
Spt. rectificat. al	3j.
M.	

236/3. *Tincture.*—Without the formula we cannot tell whether your dentifrice is cloudy owing to the quillaia or the essential oils. We should think it must be the latter; but send us your formula.

243/17. *R. N.*—The reply to "Dens," page 909, December 21, gives you the information which you require. Sugar of milk is not so bad as cane sugar in causing calomel to change into mercuric chloride, but the fact should not be overlooked that a small percentage only of the calomel is so affected. We shall return to the matter next week.

228/27. *Country.*—(1) See the foregoing reply. (2) Vaseline Oil is one of the heavy fractions of petroleum distillates decolorised by filtration through animal charcoal. It is not what people understand to be "sweet oil"—for this some retailers give olive oil, others sesame oil, or any vegetable oil. Vaseline oil is perfectly harmless when taken internally. Camphorated Oil is not a synonym for linimentum camphoræ, hence many retailers sell as camphorated oil a preparation which is not made according to the B.P. We have never done so, and would hesitate to use vaseline oil for the purpose (although it has the advantage of not freezing), because these petroleum products are not so readily absorbed by the skin as vegetable oils are.

228/52. *E. H. W.*—Please refer to the index given with the issue of December 23, under "Ammonia."

229/1. *Toutine.*—You cannot dissolve asbestos in anything without destroying it.

239/4. *Ellesmere.*—Your formula for White Oils is not very workable, yolk of eggs being necessary. Try this:—

Ten eggs	
Water	Oil.
Mix, and add—	
Spirit of turpentine	Oil.
Acetic acid	3vij.
Mix thoroughly.	

229/37. *Vaseline.*—See index of vol. xlvi., under "Emulsion."

230/44. *Aerated Water.*—Anti Calcaire is understood to contain borax and alum as well as slaked lime and sodium carbonate. You will find a mixture of slaked lime 1 part and dried sodium carbonate 2 parts suit your purpose equally well, as it removes everything but the permanent hardness (due to calcium sulphate, which can give you no trouble). Your best plan in regard to the water which you wish to soften is to take a series of 40-oz. bottlefuls of the water, and add 5, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$, 10, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$, 15 and 20 gr. of the softening to each bottleful. Allow to stand all night, and next morning test each clear liquor with ammonium-carbonate solution to see which has been sufficiently softened—judging, of course, by the absence or presence of precipitate.

Calculate from the result the proportion of the softener required per gallon. In regard to the use of such softened water we must remind you that there are still salts in solution, but chiefly free alkali, and that has to be reckoned with in making beverages. Still, there is no reason why you should not try the softening powder; also a Mawson filter, which is an excellent softener.

229/65. *Madison*.—We think you must on reflection see that January 4, 1892, cannot possibly be ranked as occurring "before 1892." You are not the only one who has fallen into this error, and in consequence we generally state, as in the last Educational number (September 7, 1895, page 388), *on or before December 31, 1891*, which is another way of saying "before January 1, 1892." Your only course is to pass the whole of the Medical Preliminary examination; that is why the Educational Institute of Scotland refused to admit you to part of the examination.

230/22. *J. Supro*.—To Mend a Wedgwood Mortar make about a drachm of calomel into a thin paste with fresh acacia mucilage, and use this as a cement.

230/55 *Pepsin*.—Excessive Doses of Pepsin do no harm, for pepsin has no action upon living tissues, and once it passes the duodenum its digestive action ceases. You are a lucky man to have a customer who swallows 1 oz. of pepsin per week.

209/96. *J. R. G. (N.S.W.)*.—Thanks for your card, which we received too late for the competition.

201/20. *Mac.*.—See reply to "Bubbles."

211/53. *Cantab.*.—Books on Venereal Diseases.—Dr. Hargreaves' work filled a blank, and now, since it is out of print, there is no other about the same size and price. The following are some reputable books:—Fuller's "Disorders of the Male Sexual Organs" (Pentland, 14s.); Morris's "Injuries and Diseases of the Genital and Urinary Organs" (Cassell, 21s.); Hill and Cooper's "Syphilis and Local Contagious Disorders" (Lewis, 18s.); Milton's "Spermatorrhea" (Benshaw, 10s. 6d.) and "Gonorrhœa" (16s.).

224/12. *Berkeley*.—Hair Falling Out.—In the *C. & D.*, April 27, 1895, page 610, there are two formulæ for hair-lotions, to be used alternately, which have been proved to afford excellent treatment for the hair coming out. "Singeing and pointing" are barbers' remedies of little or no value.

222/14. *Bubbles*.—It is impossible for you To Make a Usable Soap with soda and lime, but if you simply use the suet with caustic soda, in the proportion of 1 lb. of soda to $7\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of suet, you will succeed better. Dissolve the soda in $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon of water; melt the suet, not heating it more than is necessary, and pour the solution of soda into it, stirring for at least twenty minutes, when the mixture should have the appearance of honey. Pour this into a suitable box, wrap up in some old woollen cloths, and set aside for two or three days to harden. Your formula is unworkable as it stands. We presume that the intention has been to dissolve 3 lbs. of washing-soda in 2 gallons of water, add $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of slaked lime, set aside to settle, and decant the clear liquor, which is a solution of caustic soda. With this liquor boil the suet until a honey-like mixture is obtained, as above; but you will find the above process easier.

228/68. *Minor*.—There is a society of the name you mention; but you will notice that it is not amongst those in the *DIARY*, page 219. You can draw your own inference from that fact.

234/4. *Sagapeni*.—Egg julep.—See *C. & D.*, March 10, 1894, page 369.

217/62. *F. B.*.—Fever and Stomach Cure (to be used especially in cases of diarrhoea and sickness)—A counter-speciality cannot be expected to effect a cure in all such cases, for the origin of the trouble is not the same in all. The following is, however, a safe and beneficial remedy:—

Liq. bismuthi	3j.
Vin. ipecac.	3ss.
Tr. card. co.	3vi.
Tr. opii.	3xl.
Aq. ad.	3viii.

Dose: A tablespoonful every hour for four doses, then every four hours.

220/35. *Pyro*.—Piperazine Tablets cannot be made by compression without decomposition. As far as we can learn, the only makers of the tablets are the manufacturers of the chemical, and how they do it we are unable to say.

INFORMATION SUPPLIED.

For this section we are always glad to receive from subscribers brief notes on practical subjects, recipes which have been found good in practice or which have required modification, and hints or fresh ideas on any pharmaceutical or trade matter.

Loretin.—Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. are the English agents for this iodoform-substitute. See *C. & D. DIARY*, 1896, page 197. It is described in our "Dictionary of New Remedies" (1895 *DIARY*, page 414), and has again come to the front in consequence of Mr. Herbert Snow's praise of it.

Next Week.

Tuesday, January 14.

Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, W., at 3 P.M., Professor C. Stewart on "The External Covering of Plants and Animals."

Brighton Junior Association of Pharmacy. Sixth annual ball, at the Royal Pavilion.

Midland Pharmaceutical Association, Mason College, Birmingham. Mr. F. Smith on "The Sun and his Family."

Royal Photographic Society, 12 Hanover Square, W., at 8 P.M. Ordinary meeting. "Astigmatism and a new Stigmatic Portrait Lens," by Mr. H. L. Aldis, B.A.

Wednesday, January 15.

Midland Chemists' Assistants' Association, Exchange Rooms, Birmingham, at 8 P.M. Mr. H. Jessop on "Coal—in relation to Pharmacy."

Royal Microscopical Society, 20 Hanover Square, London, W., at 8 P.M. Presidential address by Mr. A. D. Michael.

Manchester Pharmaceutical Association, Chemical Club, Victoria Hotel, at 7.30 P.M. Mr. Wm. Lane on "The Sale of Poisons and of Poisonous Preparations."

Chemists' Ball at Portman Rooms, Baker Street, W. Mr. J. C. Umney, 48 and 50 Southwark Street, S.E., hon. sec. Chemists' Ball at Plymouth.

Thursday, January 16.

Chemical Society, Burlington House, W., at 8 P.M. "The Acetylene Theory of the Luminosity of Hydrocarbon Flames," by Professor Vivian B. Lewes, and other papers.

Linnean Society, Burlington House, W., at 8 P.M. Chemists' Assistants' Association, 103 Great Russell Street, W.C., at 8.30 P.M. Mr. W. Elborne, B.A., will read "Miscellaneous Notes."

Friday, January 17.

Royal Institution, at 9 P.M. Lord Rayleigh on "More about Argon."